Chaos at the Haskell | Bennetts find star in Tightly Twisted | Saratoga Steeplechase

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Vol. 29, Issue 9
SEPTEMBER 2021

Go Maryland

Knicks Go wins Saratoga's Whitney to jump into Horse of the Year picture

DIVINING ROD's Local Motive wins $100,000 Hickory Tree Stakes at Colonial Downs

Coady Photography

Ellen B. Pons

THOROUGHBRED DAILY NEWS 8/3/2021:

Local Motive, a 4¼-length graduate as the favorite when unveiled July 24 at Pimlico, was made the third choice here making his turf debut. Tracking the speed from second past a :22.28 quarter, the gelding found his best stride in the last eighth and wore down pacesetter Roll Dem Bones to triumph.

Congratulations to breeders Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC, Greenspring Mares LLC & Bowman and Higgins Stable, along with owner Bird Mobberley.

Divining Rod: Classic-placed son of Tapit out of Precious Kitten, a winner of three Grade 1s and 3/4-sister to leading sire Kitten's Joy.

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In this issue

Moores delight in Whitney win by Knicks Go

Maryland breeders Angie and Sabrina Moore no longer own Knicks Go, but sure are proud of him and were on hand at Saratoga Race Course for the Maryland-bred's triumph in the historic Whitney Stakes in early August. The 5-year-old gray ousted Maxfield to take the lead in the race for Horse of the Year. By Joe Clancy. Page 16

Timonium yearling sale poised for big return

Life gets back to normal (a little) as Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's fall yearling sale produces a big catalog loaded with talent and promise from a long list of consignors from around the region and nation. Mike Palmer, of Delaware's CandyLand Farm, unveils a new venture. By Joe Clancy. Page 20

Mandaloun wins Haskell on historic disqualification

Monmouth Park's signature race ended in the stewards' room as Hot Rod Charlie was disqualified for interfering with Midnight Bourbon (who lost his jockey when they clipped heels) in the stretch. By Cindy Deubler. Page 28

The Steeplechase Times

Baltimore Bucko shines at Saratoga

Buttonwood Farm's novice Baltimore Bucko (GB) goes up a level and wins the Grade 1 A.P. Smithwick Memorial at Saratoga for trainer Keri Brion. By Joe and Sean Clancy. Page 44

Cover: Maryland-bred Knicks Go leads the way around the first turn on his way to a wire-to-wire victory in Saratoga's Grade 1 Whitney Stakes in August. Photo by Amira Chichakly/Coglianese Photos.

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A Breed Apart

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Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Volume 29, Issue 9

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Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred (ISSN 1056-3245) is owned and published monthly by the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, 321 Main Street, Reisterstown, MD 21136. (410) 252-2100; Fax (410) 560-0503. Subscription rate $36 per year. Subscription rate outside the U.S. $91 per year (surface mail), payable by U.S. money order or by bank draft payable in U.S. funds. Canadian GST No. 130277759; C.P.C. IPM No. 0956988. Subscription price included in annual membership dues to the Maryland Horse Breeders Association.

Periodicals postage paid at Lutherville-Timonium, Md. 21093 and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred,** 321 Main St., Reisterstown, MD 21136.

Single copies: $5 current issue ($7 back issues past 12 months), plus $4 postage and handling. $15 Stallion Directory (December issue); $15 Statistical Review (March issue), plus $5 postage and handling. Maryland residents add 6% sales tax.

Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred is mailed to paid subscribers; to licensed owners and trainers in the eight-state region; and to active members of those breeder associations which comprise the **Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred Council:**

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Printed by The Lane Press, Burlington, VT
Printed in the U.S.A.

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POST TIME

COACH LEGEND. Retired Hall of Famer and now stable pony Lava Man (right) shows Haskell runner Hot Rod Charlie around Monmouth Park.
Bill Denver/Equi-Photo, Inc.

Say It Again

"I went to the stable gate at Bowie and said I wanted a job. They got on the loudspeaker and asked if anyone needed a hotwalker."
New York trainer Bruce Brown, who grew up in Bowie, Md., about how he got started on the racetrack

"Man, he's like a hockey player."
Country Life Farm's Mike Pons, about Shug McGaughey assistant Anthony Hamilton, who was back at work a day after getting kicked in the head by Dripping Gold in Saratoga

"You buy the dream, you sell the reality."
Bloodstock agent Russell Jones, with sage advice

"Very confident."
Rosario, asked if he was confident aboard Knicks Go in the Whitney

"One of the cool things about being a horse trainer is that pretty much every day can be Bring Your Kid to Work Day. We have shared some great moments."
Todd Pletcher, about his three children, in his Hall of Fame acceptance speech

"Merryman to Frock in the late double? Where are we, Timonium?"
Maryland racing fan, as Lizzie Merryman and Charlie Frock won the 10th and 11th at Saratoga

"She tortures them, but they have fun with her too."
Trainer Lizzie Merryman, about Pennsylvania-bred stakes winner Caravel and her road-trip companions Fenella O'Flynn and Maddie Rowland

TOD MARKS

Irad Ortiz Jr. and Caravel, Pennsylvania-bred winner of Saratoga's Grade 3 Caress Stakes July 24 for the Lizzie Merryman barn, are greeted by Merryman's son McLane Hendriks, Maddie Rowland (center) and Fenella O'Flynn.

GO FIGURE

5 Maryland-bred winners of the Whitney Stakes at Saratoga. Knicks Go joined Star de Naskra (1979), Social Outcast (1954), Gallorette (1948) and Challedon (1940) on the roster of winners of the historic race, first run in 1928.

5 Winners from as many starters for Pennsylvania broodmare Lucky Notion, whose daughter by Uncle Lino, Katesaluckygirl, won at Penn National July 7. The 3-year-old filly, bred by her owner Dan McConnell in Pennsylvania, is a half-sister to graded stakes winner Prince Lucky. Lucky Notion's 2-year-old daughter by Birdstone, Queen Lucky, is breezing at Parx Racing.

15 Horses who breezed on the first day of timed workouts on the new Laurel Park dirt surface Aug. 12.

NAMES OF THE MONTH

Zip the Lip. No Guts No Glory Farm's 3-year-old Maryland-bred gelding is out of Talkin Smack.

Baltimore Bulleit. Lugamo Racing Stable's 2-year-old gelding is by Bourbon Courage out of Charm City.

Starburst. Dare To Dream Stable's 3-year-old Maryland-bred colt, undefeated in two starts, is out of Favorite Candy.

Tunstall. Gregory Viands' 4-year-old filly, bred in Maryland, is out of And a Cherry Tree. If you're a music fan, you've heard "Big Black Horse and the Cherry Tree" by KT Tunstall.

MILESTONES

Won: His 1,500th race, jockey Sheldon Russell aboard Hello Beautiful in the Alma North Stakes at Pimlico Race Course July 31. It was the eighth win and sixth in a stakes for Hello Beautiful, trained by Russell's wife, Brittany. "I'm just very happy that we got it out of the way, and for it to happen on Hello Beautiful. She's been a great filly throughout my career, she's given me some great wins," Sheldon Russell said. "She was mine and Brittany's first stakes winner together, so for me to reach a milestone on one of our favorite fillies, it's something I'll never forget." To commemorate the milestone, Russell teamed with agent Marty Leonard to gift Hello Beautiful's groom, Luis Barajas, with $1,500. It was a gesture Russell began with $1,000 for his 1,000th winner March 7, 2015, with Shayjolie in the Cat Cay at Aqueduct. "Luis has been with us for about a year now. He's a key role behind the scenes at the barn and he takes care of some really, really nice fillies," Russell said. "He's got years of experience, so when they come with that kind of background, straight away when he came into Brittany's barn she gave him the best five horses pretty much that she has." Russell was Maryland's overall leading rider in 2011 and has won eight meet titles, the most recent coming at Laurel Park's calendar year-ending 2020 fall stand. He has battled various injuries over the course of his career and ranks second to Charlie Marquez for the state's most wins in 2021.

Won: His first race as a trainer, steeplechase jockey Sean McDermott, when Favorite Image captured a $16,000 maiden claimer at Pimlico July 23. The native of Ireland, where he won more than 100 races, has ridden in the United States full-time since 2015 and has twice led the National Steeplechase Association in earnings. Favorite Image, a Maryland homebred of the late Bob Kinsley's South Branch Equine, made it happen with a front-running triumph. "I've ridden a lot of winners all over the world, from Australia to Ireland, England, America, everywhere. The first one as a trainer is more pride, especially with this horse because the previous advice Mr. Kinsley had gotten was to give this horse away. They thought he was too small, but he was actually just a very late foal and a late developer." It was the first win from 23 starts for McDermott. He ran nine horses in 2020, two on the flat and seven over jumps, during a pandemic-shortened season. McDermott's horses have raced primarily on the flat this year, at Laurel, Pimlico, Parx and Penn National, and he also has three seconds and a third in four races over jumps. Hired by Kinsley to manage a farm purchased in early 2020, McDermott called himself an "accidental" trainer who came into that job when Kinsley died in June 2020. "This definitely was not a planned vocation," he said. "I guess Covid had a lot to do with how this came up. [The property] had a barn and a few arenas and he needed some yearlings broken. Then Covid hit and racing was stop-start, steeplechase in particular, which depended on crowds to attend for the

MILESTONES

purses. Mr. Kinsley had a good way of not taking no for an answer. The barn was full and it just kind of spiraled into training, and here we are."

Set: At Colonial Downs, three course records over three consecutive days in July. Giant's Causeway's 5-year-old son Eons blew home from last and got up in the final stride in the Buckland Stakes to stop the clock in 1:48.14 for 1⅛ miles July 26, breaking the previous mark by .57 seconds. The next day's seventh race saw the 6-year-old gelding Street Copper win an optional claimer by daylight while running 1 mile in 1:33.09–slicing more than a second off the former record of 1:34.24. The seventh race July 28 was the showcase for 4-year-old filly Festive Star (GB), who came home in 1:40.30 for 1 1/16 miles in allowance company, besting the previous record of 1:41.01. All three races were run over the inner turf course.

Announced: By Laurel Park, a fall stakes schedule with 33 stakes worth $3.525 million, led by the $200,000 Frank J. De Francis Memorial Dash-G3 and 36th Jim McKay Maryland Million. The fall meet begins Sept. 9 and runs through Dec. 31. The 6-furlong De Francis Dash will help kick off the fall stakes schedule as one of four stakes worth $500,000 in purses Saturday, Sept. 18. Named for the late president and chairman of both Laurel and historic Pimlico Race Course, its illustrious roster of winners includes Hall of Famer Housebuster, fellow sprint champions Cherokee Run, Smoke Glacken, Thor's Echo and Benny the Bull, and Lite the Fuse, the race's only two-time winner. Saturday, Oct. 2 will feature five stakes, all on turf, worth $600,000 in purses, highlighted by the $150,000 Laurel Futurity for 2-year-olds and $150,000 Selima for 2-year-old fillies, both 1 1/16 miles. The ground-breaking Maryland Million, which debuted in 1986 and inspired copycat programs throughout the U.S. and Canada, returns Saturday, Oct. 23 with eight stakes anchored by the $150,000 Classic for 3-year-olds and up at 1⅛ miles. New to the stakes calendar are the $150,000 Robert T. Manfuso for 3-year-olds and up going 1 1/16 miles and $100,000 Carousel at 1⅛ miles for fillies and mares 3 and older. The Carousel, which carried Grade 3 status from 1988 through 1997, was last run in 2002 at Laurel. Manfuso passed away March 19, 2020, at the age of 82. A former owner of both Laurel and Pimlico and longtime partner of trainer Katy Voss, Manfuso was instrumental in revitalizing Thoroughbred racing in Maryland. An owner and breeder who established Chanceland Farm with Voss in 1987, Manfuso bred 2016 Kentucky Oaks-G1 winner Cathryn Sophia and was named Maryland's Breeder of the Year with his filly earning Maryland-bred Horse of the Year honors. Maryland racing was slated for Pimlico through Aug. 22, followed by Timonium Aug. 26 through Sept. 6.

Elected: As president of the National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, Virginia owner and veterinarian Dr. Doug Daniels. He has been vice president of the Virginia HBPA and a

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MILESTONES

member of the National HBPA's executive committee since 2019. He succeeds Leroy Gessmann, who had been president since 2015. In addition to his own Virginia Equine veterinary practice, Daniels has and continues to work for the Virginia Racing Commission when needed as a regulatory veterinarian at the commonwealth's Thoroughbred, Standardbred and steeplechase race meets. He takes over the helm at a time when the National HBPA is challenging in federal court in Texas the legality of the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act (HISA). The National HBPA long has advocated for enhanced safety regulations, security and tougher sanctions for cheaters but believes policies must be implemented with transparency and input from horsemen's and veterinary representative groups. "Because of the pending federal legislation, I feel like this is a good time for the membership to have a veterinarian with a voice to look out for their interests," Daniels said. Daniels was elected at the National HBPA's full board meeting, which included the election of all National HBPA Officers. The only change other than the election of president Daniels was that of the National HBPA's East Region vice president. The East Region affiliates elected Sandee Martin, president of the Pennsylvania HBPA. Re-elected as vice presidents were: Kentucky HBPA president Rick Hiles (Southern Region), Arizona HBPA vice president Lloyd Yother (West Region) and Indiana HBPA president Joe Davis (Central Region).

THE RACING BIZ

The Independent Voice for Mid-Atlantic Racing and Breeding

On Laurel track surface–making sure "you don't get there again": The closure of Laurel Park because of the track surface has been a trial for many. But avoiding it in the future isn't just a matter of rebuilding the track. Frank Vespe reports.

Scott Peck, nearing 90, still going strong: Getting into the horse business later in life, Delaware Park trainer Scott Peck, two-term president of the Delaware Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, says, "I have to have something to do to keep me going." Jim Hague gets the story.

Nico making up for lost time: After showing plenty of promise as a 2-year-old, Charles Town-based Nico missed his entire sophomore campaign. Now the O'Sullivan Farms product is making up for lost time, reports Ted Black.

Bell Gable hoping Maryland Brando a contender: Maryland Brando was a flashy first-out winner at Delaware Park for Gary Contessa and Bell Gable Stable. Will he, like his namesake, hope to be a contender? Teresa Genaro takes a look.

Backtracks–Lady Maryland, tapestry in grey: Jennifer Kelly's covers the rousing tale of Lady Maryland, a star in the late 1930s.

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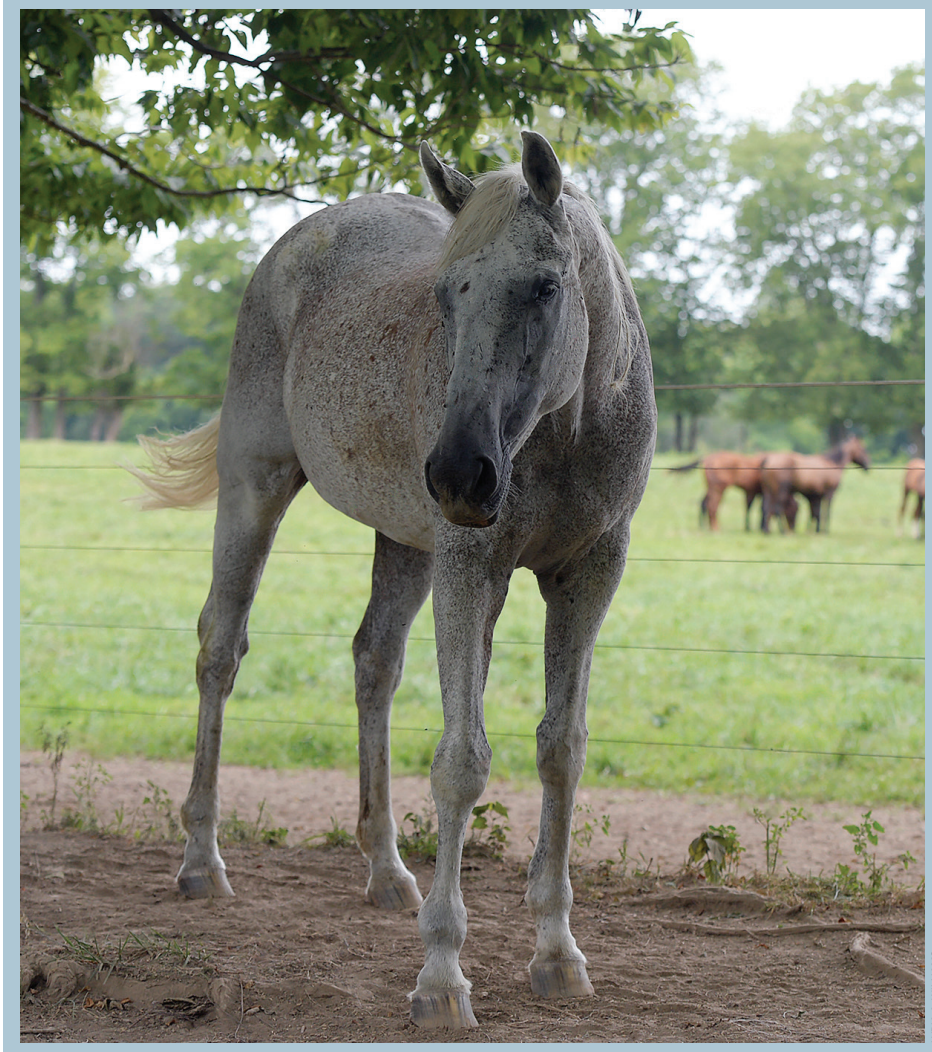

LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

Beau Ridge Farm in Kearneysville, W.Va., is home to the state's top stallion, Fiber Sonde. It is home to West Virginia's top breeders, John and Cyndy (O'Bannon) McKee. And it is home to Last Enchantment, the quirky 26-year-old homebred gelding whose exploits are still remembered by many at nearby Charles Town Races 20 years after his retirement.

There was never any question that Last Enchantment would live at Beau Ridge. He is as much a part of the farm as the McKees themselves. His second dam was John McKee's foundation mare Forbidden Wind (Restless Wind—Uninvited, by Social Climber). Forbidden Wind's daughter Precious Cavalry (by Cavalry) produced Last Enchantment from the Mr. Prospector stallion Glide, who stood for a time at Beau Ridge before being sold to Korean breeders.

"Forbidden Wind was purchased in Oklahoma around 1969," Cyndy McKee said. "So John can trace this horse's family back to the beginning of the farm over 50 years ago."

A lot of horseflesh has been bred, owned and trained by John McKee during that timespan. But while Last Enchantment didn't have the most wins or the biggest bankroll, he was one of the most memorable. Or the most notorious. Potato, pototto. Last Enchantment was a challenge from the word go.

"Scottie Allen broke him for us and still talks about him," Cyndy said. "He was very difficult to break. I tease Scottie all the time, saying, 'He's still alive, if you want to put the tack back on him.' He says 'NOOOOOooooo, he'll probably still buck to this day.'"

In training at Charles Town, Last Enchantment—called "Merlin" at home—had to gallop in blinkers every day. Cyndy always ponied him to the track on her Paint horse, Magic Johnson. And she swears that if it hadn't been for her western saddle, Last Enchantment would have yanked her out of the tack more than once.

But it was his penchant for the prop and wheel that earned the gray gelding his dubious reputation.

"He'd see something he didn't like," Cyndy said. "He'd be galloping, and then in one stride he's heading in the opposite direction. I remember people saying they were galloping behind him, and he was going forward. Then all of a sudden he was heading back at them. He was very agile, and you could never fully relax on him. That was just him."

Last Enchantment was also talented, although a bit on the small side as a youngster. As he was a late May foal, John McKee didn't start him until the end of his 2-year-old season on Nov. 19, 1997. He broke his maiden in his second start three weeks later at Charles Town, the site of 53 of his 55 starts. McKee ventured to Timonium with the horse twice, winning a claiming race there in 1999 and returning to finish fourth the following year.

Last Enchantment was a working man for sure, often running twice a month. More frequently than not, he earned a check. And, somewhat surprisingly, he was never claimed from the McKees. Perhaps his reputation preceded him? Cyndy McKee will allow it.

"Of course a lot of people saw him train, and he could be a bit of a pill when he wanted to be. He didn't have a mean bone in him and is still a very kind horse. But he was a character."

His shining moment came during his 5-year-old season on Sept. 16, 2000, winning the inaugural running of Charles Town's Dash for Cash Stakes.

The horse was bothered by grouchy ankles as time wore on, leading to his retirement after finishing second in a claiming race on Dec. 20, 2001. His resume boasts respectable stats of 55-14-8-4 and $125,516 earned.

He has lived at Beau Ridge's 283-acre satellite location in Shepherdstown,

W.Va., ever since and now hangs out with 15-year-old retiree Mickey Mac's Turn, a miniature horse and two miniature donkeys.

"I was always afraid to start a second career with him," Cyndy said. "I really was afraid to give him to somebody because I just never knew what he would do. I didn't want to give him to someone who maybe wasn't a good enough rider and have something go wrong. And not long after we brought him home, one ankle kinda locked up. So he's been here as a pet ever since."

As many retired geldings do, Last Enchantment helps raise the Beau Ridge Farm youngsters. Barren mares and yearlings are rotated out of the Shepherdstown property back to the farm's main base with the new crop of weanlings taking their place late in the year. The McKees' main residence is at the 170-acre Kearneysville location along with four stallions: Master Rick, Redirect, Spiritus Invictus and the aforementioned Fiber Sonde.

The plan is to sell the larger tract and centralize everything at the main farm.

"We are going to put that one on the market and try to cut back a little bit. John is 81 and I'm 63, so it's getting harder and harder. So hopefully we're going to combine and have everything in one place. Merlin will come back here then."

His posse will come with him, so the old gray gelding won't mind the new digs. And it will make stuffing him with carrots a lot easier for Cyndy. The carrot reference brought up a fond memory.

While the gelding was still in training at Charles Town, the McKees shared a barn with breeder/trainer James W. Casey. His wife, the late Eleanor Casey, walked down the shedrow handing out carrots every day, and she became completely enamored with Last Enchantment.

"She followed him and knew of all of his antics," Cyndy said. "But she would tell him what a good boy he was, even though he was always so bad. He was such a favorite of hers."

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TOD MARKS

Region finds reasons to shine at Saratoga 2021

Good horses, horsemen and horsewomen come from anywhere. Never was that more evident than this summer at Saratoga Race Course.

Horses bred and/or based in the Mid-Atlantic found ways to shine on the biggest stage in racing. A steeplechase trainer, a Marylander with Pennsylvania roots, joined racing's national Hall of Fame. A yearling out of a Pennsylvania-bred mare sold for $1.6 million at the high-end Fasig-Tipton Saratoga Select Sale.

The region can be proud of itself.

Knicks Go, a Maryland-bred whose breeder claimed his dam (a Maryland-bred daughter of Outflanker with deep roots in the state) for $40,000, won the historic Whitney Stakes-G1 in early August—adding another notch to his blossoming chances to be the 2021 Horse of the Year. The victory, arguably the most significant by a Maryland-bred since the days of Cigar, delighted breeder Angie Moore and her daughter Sabrina. They foaled and raised Knicks Go on their farm in Glyndon, sold him as a weanling and watched him become a star. They also watched him win the Whitney. They laughed, they cried, they cheered, they drank champagne in the Saratoga Room. Knicks Go ousted Maxfield, bred and raised in Kentucky by Godolphin. That owner's blue silks have won the biggest races in the world. First run in 1928, the Whitney counts among its past winners Equipoise, Discovery, War Admiral, Stymie, Kelso, Dr. Fager, Alydar and Personal Ensign. Secretariat lost the Whitney. The race is an icon. And a Maryland-bred won it for the first time since 1979.

Caravel, a Pennsylvania-bred, won the Caress Stakes-G3 on her way to a potential start in the Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint-G1. The 4-year-old filly might be fast enough to handle the world's best at Del Mar in November. She's won seven of nine starts, with two thirds, and showed enough promise that Bobby Flay—celebrity chef and major Thoroughbred owner—bought 75 percent from Lizzie Merryman (Caravel's breeder, owner, trainer, occasional van driver and biggest fan) and Caravel moved to trainer Graham Motion after the Caress. It all sounds sad at first, until you consider that Caravel is the product of a free broodmare, that Merryman retained 25 percent, and that she owns Caravel's brothers, sister and dam—the latter in foal to Street Boss.

Steeplechase trainer Jack Fisher, who grew up foxhunting and riding ponies in Pennsylvania, joined Thoroughbred racing's Hall of Fame in August—standing alongside flat trainer Todd Pletcher in the class of 2021. Pletcher's horses have earned more in purses than any Thoroughbred trainer in history. Fisher won't ever catch Pletcher in that category, but is the heir apparent to Hall of Famer Jonathan Sheppard, who retired at the end of the 2020 season. Sheppard won 26 National Steeplechase Association championships. His horses earned $24.9 million over jumps. Fisher is at 13 titles and $18 million, both second in history. He's trained champions and a Hall of Famer. He's won the Maryland Hunt Cup and the Virginia Gold Cup, the latter 12 times. He trained Saluter, the most accomplished timber horse in U.S. history. And, now, Fisher's a Hall of Famer.

The star yearling, second-highest price at the sale, was bred in Kentucky but he can thank Pennsylvania for his family. Marshall Jenney, owner of Derry Meeting Farm near Unionville, bred the colt's fifth dam—Mrs. Penny—and watched her win major races in England, France and the United States. Mrs. Penny's daughter Mrs. Jenney won two races in England and one each at Garden State Park and Penn National. Mrs. Jenney's daughter A Votre Sante won two races in France. A Votre Sante's daughter Vole Vole Monamour won a single race, and produced six winners. A daughter, Dame Dorothy, won seven races including a Grade 1.

Each of those mares was bred in Pennsylvania, and each bred or owned by Jenney, a Saratoga fixture for years with a consignment of yearlings from those bloodlines and others. Jenney sold the game-changing stallion Danzig at Saratoga in 1978. He did it again with Unbridled's Song in 1994. A colt out of Mrs. Jenney, Unaccounted For, was part of Jenney's 1992 consignment at Saratoga and won the Whitney in 1995. Derry Meeting sold at least four seven-figure yearlings at Saratoga, one the year after Jenney died in 2000. The names of Derry Meeting horses dot the commemorative signs above stall doors at Fasig-Tipton's Saratoga sales grounds, showcasing Jenney's long shadow—which got a little bit longer in 2021. ✹

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On The Go

Moores enjoy Whitney win by their Maryland-bred

By Joe Clancy

Sabrina and Angie Moore, the women behind Maryland's GreenMount Farm, looked like they'd run a marathon after watching Knicks Go – a horse Angie bred and her daughter Sabrina raised – solidify his spot atop the list of the best Thoroughbreds in training in 2021 with a victory in the 94th Whitney Stakes-G1 at Saratoga Race Course Aug. 7.

"That was terrible to watch, the anxiety of it," said Sabrina, a tear rolling down her right cheek and goosebumps racing up her arm as the replay video ran on the infield big screen.

"I couldn't get rid of my chills when he was coming down the stretch," said Angie. "I was looking down saying, 'Don't lose it, don't lose it.'"

He didn't. Maryland-bred Knicks Go, sold by the Moores as a weanling in 2016, won his third graded stakes of 2021 and added to a career now counting eight wins and $5,368,995 earned in 22 starts for the Korea Racing Authority. The gray 5-year-old owns four Grade 1 victories – the Breeders' Futurity at 2, the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile at 4 and now the Pegasus World Cup and Whitney at 5. He entered September as the top-ranked horse in North America and the early favorite for the Breeders' Cup Classic-G1 in November.

Pretty heady stuff for a mother/daughter team from Baltimore County.

"I never imagined this," said Angie. "I used to as a little girl imagine this, and in my wildest dreams think of things like this. But this is more than a dream come true. I tell her all the time, people work with horses their whole lives and never get to just one of the things we've made it to with him."

You can thank Angie Moore, who rode in high school, worked at Pimlico on Preakness Day and eventually owned a few racehorses for the roots of this Thoroughbred endeavor. Sabrina took all that interest to a new place, riding and working with horses, learning the business from sales consignor Bill Reightler and later opting to make a career out of it. When her grandfather – the former COO of Westinghouse Corporation and for a time the Secretary of Business and Economic Development for Maryland Aris Melissaratos – bought GreenMount in Glyndon, it all became a reality. Angie Moore claimed stakes winner Kosmo's Buddy, more as a potential broodmare than a racehorse, in 2010. She bought another mare prospect, stakes winner Mystic Love, in 2013.

And Sabrina was off and running, foaling mares, prepping horses to sell, taking on foaling duties and sales prep for clients and even starting a sales consignment.

Kosmo's Buddy went to English Channel in 2011 and the resulting filly sold for $35,000 as a yearling. Next came Pinkprint, a Not For Love filly born in 2013 and kept by Angie Moore for a two-start (zero wins) racing career.

A 2014 Super Saver colt brought $62,000 as a weanling, was named Super Buddy and won four times. Kosmo's Buddy didn't have a foal in 2015, but more than made up for it in 2016 with a Paynter colt who sold for $40,000 and became Knicks Go. He's taken his breeders to the Breeders' Cup twice, the Pegasus and now Saratoga.

The business plan at GreenMount called for selling weanlings or yearlings in the early stages, and even letting Kosmo's Buddy go via private sale. It's a business first, though moments like the Whitney threaten the direction.

"I try not to get really emotional when it comes to our horses, but he really did get started from the ground up at our farm," said Sabrina. "It's crazy to see him do what he's done. I know I'm really fortunate to have something like this happen to me, especially so early. I know a lot of people try really hard and work their whole lives to try to do something like this."

Knicks Go was 9 months old when he left GreenMount for the Keeneland November sale and – ultimately – stardom. Despite his ability, size and power, Sabrina thinks back to the early days.

"He wasn't a jerk, but he was bad," she said. "Well, a different kind of bad, like naughty. He had his opinions and we had a couple run-ins. We would bang heads every now and then."

Northface Bloodstock spent $40,000 to buy the colt at Keeneland November, and pinhooked him as a yearling to Keeneland September – where KRA spent $87,000 to add him to the portfolio. KRA entered Knicks Go in the Ocala Breeders' Sales Company's 2018 sale as a 2-year-old, but withdrew him in favor of a racing career. Sent to Ben Colebrook, Knicks Go won twice as a 2-year-old and finished second to Game Winner at 41-1 in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile-G1. KRA chased the Kentucky Derby in 2019, and Knicks Go weathered a winless, eight-start campaign with losses in six Grade 3 stakes.

"He didn't have a good 3-year-old campaign, we got Derby fever and we paid for it the whole year," KRA's representative

SARA GORDON

Jun Park said after the Whitney. "Ben did a good job, but we were desperate to find something to change."

They changed trainers, sending Knicks Go to Brad Cox. Looking to reset the horse's career, the trainer found a two-other-than allowance at Oaklawn Park in February 2020 and Knicks Go blitzed eight overmatched rivals. An ankle injury delayed his next start until October, when he won another allowance to catapult into the Breeders' Cup and more. Since moving to the Cox barn, Knicks Go has strung together six wins in eight starts to emerge as one of the best horses in the world.

"This horse was a really good horse at 2, his Breeders' Futurity was really impressive, he was 70-1 and ran away from those horses," Cox said. "When I got him, I was like, 'Wow, he's a two-other than.'"

After he won, the goals changed.

"I was like, 'OK, wow, he can be a graded horse," Cox said.

Off the two-other-than and a three-other-than nearly eight months later, Knicks Go closed 2020 with the Dirt Mile win. He opened 2021 by wiring the 1⅛-mile Pegasus World Cup at Gulfstream Park in January, and tried the $20 million Saudi Cup-G1 in February. Fourth there, and also fourth in the Grade 1 Met Mile in June, he dominated the Cornhusker-G3 at Prairie Meadows and made the Whitney look easy while drawing away from Maxfield by 4½ lengths in a solid 1:47.70 for 1⅛ miles. Joel Rosario crouched low leaving the gate, with his elbows on Knicks Go's withers, and allowed the horse to find a spot on the lead. He stayed there, putting up quarter-mile splits of :23.42, :23.34 and :23.56 to get 6 furlongs in 1:10.32. The lead was 5 lengths after a half-mile, shortened up a bit to 1½ on the turn but widened again in the stretch as Rosario looked for challenges under each arm.

He saw none.

"I just stay out of his way, let him do his thing," said the jockey. "The horse loves to run and when they're running like that, you don't need to hit them. When they're running fast, you don't need to do anything."

Cox said the two-turn setup suits his horse, and blamed the two defeats this year partly on the one-turn configurations at Saudi Arabia's King Abdulaziz (host of the 1⅛-mile Saudi Cup) and Belmont Park (home of the Met Mile). In the latter, Knicks Go went off at 4-5 and finished fourth behind Silver State, By My Standards and Mischevious Alex—and helped convince Cox that Saratoga should be next.

"He trained every bit as well so when he got beat, I felt like I knew he needed the two turns to clear off," Cox said. "The Saudi Cup was a mile-and-an-eighth but it was around one turn. You don't know until you try, there were 20 million reasons to try Saudi and then there was a Grade 1 staring us in the face figuring we would be the favorite. We learned our lesson."

The Moores went along for the ride, again, but have a stake in Knicks Go's success—even if they no longer own him. As a Win and You're In race for the Breeders' Cup Classic, the Whitney came with a $10,000 nominator bonus to the Moores. They also received an $80,000 credit from WinStar Farm to use toward a future stallion season as part of the Kentucky farm's breeders' incentive program.

In addition, GreenMount is prepping a Tiznow filly out of Pinkprint for a yearling sale this fall. Bred by GreenMount and WinStar, the filly was second in her class at the Maryland Horse Breeders Association yearling show and is out of a half-sister to the hottest horse in the country. Pinkprint didn't have a foal in 2021, but is in foal to More Than Ready for next year.

"I sold Knicks Go before the yearling show and I'm so bummed because it would be nice to see his name on there,"

SARA GORDON

said Sabrina, who showed the champion (a Bernardini—Mystic Love filly) in 2020, of the yearling show. "For a while we were turning over the weanlings and selling the mare so I could get cashflow going, but now we're able to keep them until they're yearlings. That's made a difference."

GreenMount recently gained another Knicks Go relative, who won't do much to help the bottom line.

"I just brought Super Buddy back and retired him from the track," said Sabrina of the 7-year-old half-brother GreenMount sold as a weanling. "I'm not sure what I'm going to do with him, but he's cool and the family is really sentimental to me. He looks exactly like Knicks Go."

Call him a morale booster, and GreenMount will surely need it. It's not all Saratoga winner's circle photos after all. There's work to do.

"I ran into [trainer] J.B. Secor the other day at home and he said that things seemed to be going well for me and I responded that I was very lucky," Sabrina said. "He just came back with, 'The harder you work, the luckier you get,' so I'm going to go with that. I don't know why this happened. I'll enjoy it and I'll just keep on working at it."

SARA GORDON

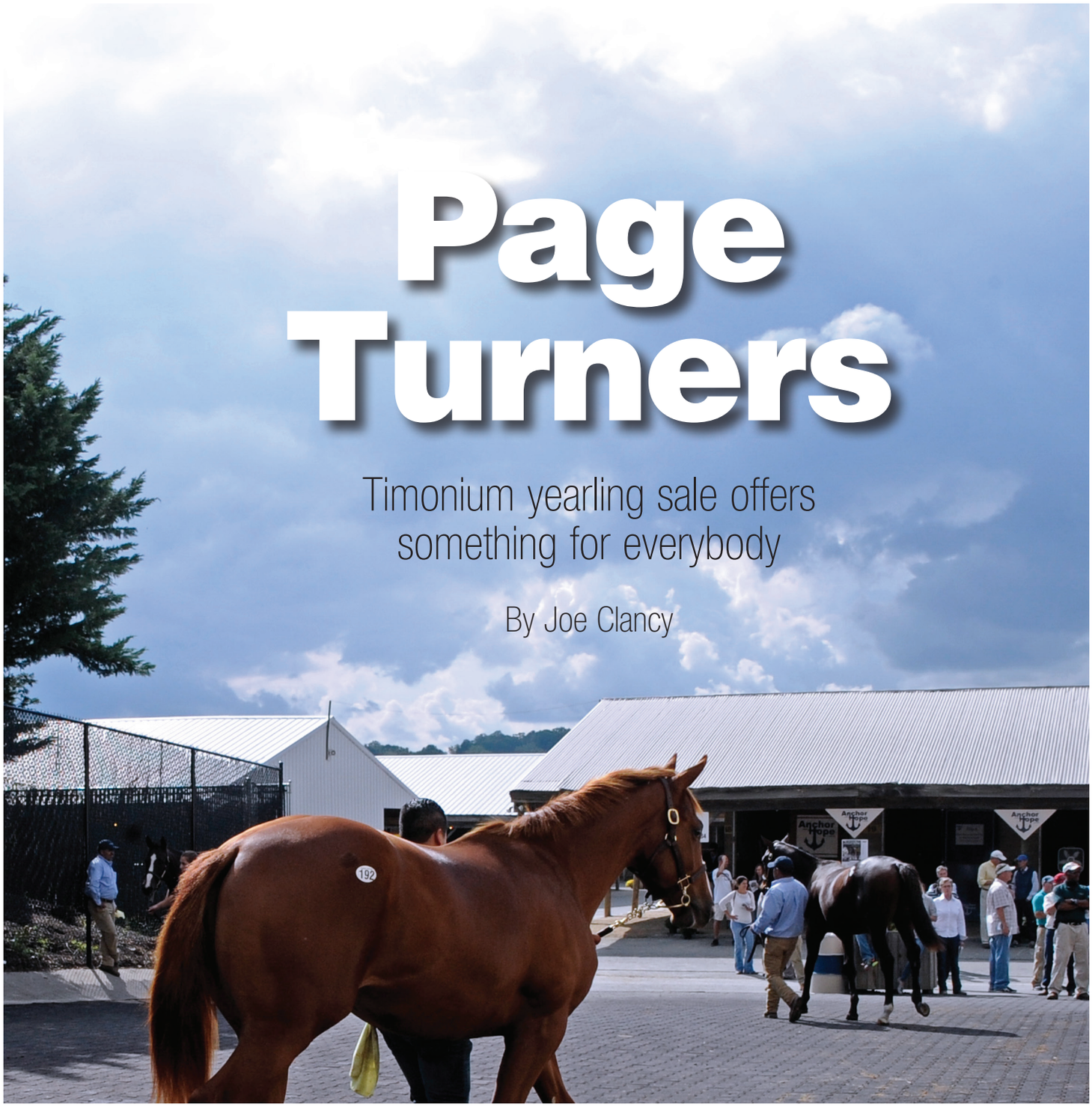
Maryland-bred Knicks Go—a legitimate Horse of the Year candidate as the calendar heads to fall—schools in the Saratoga paddock two days before the Whitney (above), flies home with the Grade 1 victory (below) and chills in his stall at trainer Brad Cox's Saratoga barn.

COGLIANESE PHOTO

Page Turners

Timonium yearling sale offers something for everybody

By Joe Clancy



LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

Nothing stays the same, as the oldtimers say, so when you look at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale catalog and don't see CandyLand among the consignors don't fret too much. Mike Palmer, his horsemanship and the support of owners Herb and Ellen Moelis will still be there. The signs just won't say CandyLand, not the way they used to anyway.

"We're going down there this year as Dreamtime Stables, but underneath the sign I'm going to put 'At CandyLand' and I think I'll take a CandyLand sign with me," Palmer said in August. "Call it honor, call it what you will. They've done so much for the industry and for me. I can't leave that brand out of the picture with me. I was just at the designer to make the sign–a little dark blue, 'At CandyLand.'"

Palmer figures he'll have 19 horses at the sale, which runs Oct. 4-5 at the Timonium, Md., sales pavilion, and hopes to follow up on a strong 2020 version where 379 horses sold for more than $9.1 million. This year's book included 490 (plus/minus) in mid-August, with a supplement to come no doubt. Quality and depth go in various directions, though the sale brings some uncertainty as 2021 follows a different model than 2020.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, last year's sales calendar was a jumble with Saratoga's select sales and New York-bred sales canceled entirely. Yearlings that would normally sell there went to Fasig-Tipton's

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September select showcase in Kentucky, Keeneland September, Timonium in early October or Fasig-Tipton's October sale in Kentucky. This year's sales at Saratoga happened like normal, which will impact Timonium especially among New York-breds (grouped as the first 154 hips of the 2020 sale, but mixed throughout the catalog this year). In addition, the rescheduled Preakness Weekend in October at nearby Pimlico Race Course no doubt helped send buyers to Timonium.

The result is fewer horses (Fasig-Tipton put up temporary stabling to accommodate the extras in 2020 and doesn't plan to do that this year), but that's not necessarily a bad thing.

"I think it's all right," sales director Paget Bennett said of the slightly smaller catalog. "People who didn't get in in Saratoga or for whatever reason it didn't work, we get rollover from that in terms of New York-breds and I think people were happy with 2020. The Kentucky sires kind of overwhelm some of the New York-sired horses a little bit at Saratoga, so we see more of those.

"It's exciting because people see this sale gaining momentum every year. Every year we hear people say they're shopping Maryland. Every year, it gets a little more attention, a little more something. At our May sale [of 2-year-olds] we hear pinhookers ask each other, 'Well, where did you get that horse?' and they say Maryland so more people pay attention."

Bennett and company will trust consignors to bring quality yearlings, and will always lean on the buyers showing up at Timonium.

"Everybody has options to sell and buy horses," Bennett said. "We're proud of Timonium, and the work we do, and we hope we offer a good marketplace. We know trainers like to come and it's nice to see consignors get rewarded for nice horses."

Dreamtime will try to extend the reputation for quality built at CandyLand for almost 30 years. The Delaware farm topped the Timonium yearling sale in 2008, 2013, 2015 and 2018. Far earlier, and well beyond the region, CandyLand worked with pedigree expert Bob Fierro and claimed 2-year-old filly Redeemer who took the Moelises to the highest levels of the Thoroughbred business. Her 1992 colt by Houston brought $335,000 as part of the Derry Meeting Farm consignment at Fasig-Tipton's Saratoga sale in 1993, the highest price for a colt. On the racetrack, the Moelises' Candy Stable campaigned graded stakes winner Cat Be Nimble among other stars. CandyLand worked with West Point Thoroughbreds, Seth Klarman (whose Klaravich Stable is one of racing's most successful), Stuart Grant's The Elkstone Group and others while building a long, successful track record in racing.

LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

Mike Palmer will sell yearlings under the new Dreamtime Stables banner at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's fall yearling sale.

The Moelises are stepping back some of their involvement on the business side of the farm, though you'll see them among the breeders of some Dreamtime yearlings. Based at CandyLand, Palmer takes the Dreamtime Stables name he's had for several years and expands it to a sales consignment for the first time.

"It's their land, it's their barn, it's their baby," Palmer said of the Moelises and CandyLand. "I've been here 27 going on 28 years. They knew that I didn't want to go anywhere. They got me where I am. Without them I might be down in Kentucky in some barn in the back 40 where nobody knew my name. Being involved in the matings and the buying of some of these horses has made it special here for a long time. The farm's not going to go anywhere. We're just doing it a little differently."

Herb Moelis turned 90 in April and can't be as involved as he used to be, so the change in direction just makes sense and the timing was right. CandyLand has some yearlings in the Dreamtime consignment and will sell two broodmares in November. The 2021 foals could head to the sales as weanlings or wait until the 2022 yearling sales, but the action at the farm continues.

"Mike has been a faithful, good partner in this and been terrific looking out for our needs and handling the boarding operation and working with Herb on the sales," said Ellen Moelis. "We felt Mike should have a business to keep him going when we're no longer in the business. Mike has use of the farm, – the paddocks, the barn, the equipment –for as long as he wants to operate it. It's a lot of years when you think about it. We wanted to make sure that Mike could keep something going, and this gives him an opportunity to continue what we all started."

If there's an heir apparent to those CandyLand sales-toppers and other quality horses to come through the farm, the results will show it, but Palmer raved about a Mendelssohn colt, two Malibu Moon yearlings (one a half-sister to 2018 sales-topper, stakes winner and graded-stakes placed Kiss the Girl), a Midnight Lute "to die for" and so on.

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LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

Becky Davis will sell a Munnings half-brother to this 2016 sales-topping Curlin colt out of Formalities Aside.

"I've got some serious, serious stock, and I've got some meat-and-potatoes horses too," Palmer said. "It's a group that's not going to embarrass me or CandyLand by any stretch of the imagination."

Palmer grew up in Michigan, but found his way to horses including a job with early Candy Stable trainer Tommy Skiffington (via assistant Taylor Jackson) at Fair Hill Training Center in the 1980s and later posts with Walnut Green and Three Chimneys sales consignments.

Herb and Ellen Moelis brought a business background to go along with their racing/breeding success. He went to the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, got a law degree from New York University, and spent 30 years as a CPA and tax attorney. She had a 30-year career in real estate, eventually becoming the president and owner of Allison Management, the largest property management company in New York and New Jersey.

Palmer added more horse knowledge and together they created a success story with a deep broodmare band, quality homebreds, sales-ring success for the farm and clients, Delaware certification for owners such as Rick Porter and so on. Beyond CandyLand and Candy Stable, the Moelises are known for their philanthropy. With Allaire duPont, they founded the Thoroughbred Charities of America which has distributed grants in excess of $25 million to Thoroughbred-related charities.

CandyLand bought mares, raised horses for the sales ring or the racetrack and over time became one of the industry's leading players with sales horses sold via top-flight consignors Derry Meeting Farm, Denali Stud, Bluegrass Thoroughbred Services and others in Kentucky, at Saratoga and in the Mid-Atlantic. Eventually, CandyLand hung out its own consignment shingle.

With a nod to the crisp shedrows run by Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas, CandyLand opted for white as the primary color scheme for the signs, stall boards and so on, and set about making the name a can't-miss consignment at the sales for other reasons.

"People know we raise them right," Palmer said. "We don't hothouse them. We're not holier than thou. We just try to present the horses as best we can. If we did our part, the horse speaks for itself."

And what is CandyLand's part?

"You take good care of your horses, that's all you can do," he said. "You treat them all as best you can. I'm trying to maximize the price of the horse. I want to out-prep everybody at these sales. I want that horse to be on point as a yearling and help the buyer know exactly what that horse is going to look like as a 2-year-old. That's nothing but elbow grease and making them look as best they can."

The elbow grease includes the basics—handling, grooming, teaching. Barn staffers rub and brush, pick out feet, hook horses to the stall wall, give baths, whatever it takes. Details matter, and Palmer will nitpick over cuts and scrapes that could "knock a horse a thousand bucks" in the ring, and tells his staff about how important the little things are.

"We got them all in from the fields a couple weeks ago," he said in mid-August. "I've always strived that when someone buys one of our horses they could take them wherever they wanted. They've been through a little education, whether it's

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junior college or whatever you want to call it, but they've done something."

As for the sale itself, you're just as likely to find Palmer in the tack room as you are to see him out front playing salesman. He's got a binder full of information to show prospective buyers if they want it, otherwise they're left to make decisions.

"I ask our people to take the horse out and show it to the people–if they like the horse, they like the horse," Palmer said. "I don't go talk horses up too much. What am I going to tell John Servis or some of those trainers? They see the horse. I let the horse do the talking. When you happen to top a couple sales, does that mean you're the best? No, not at all. The horse did it, you didn't. You orchestrated your work to help the horse. That's all you did."

BARRIE B. REIGHTLER

GreenMount Farm will sell this Tiznow filly, second in her class at the Maryland Horse Breeders Association yearling show. She is out of the Not For Love mare Pinkprint, a half-sister to Knicks Go.

Catalog Surfing

The 2021 catalog offers a mix of consignors from the Mid-Atlantic, Kentucky and New York.

Those consignors will count on the buyers who typically show up at Timonium in late September and early October every year–a mix of agents, trainers, owners and pinhookers not seen at many other sales.

They will have plenty to look at with 39 consignments–Audley to WynOaks by the alphabet and spanning all genres of the sales business. Kentucky's Hill 'n' Dale Farm will be there with two Army Mule yearlings. Eaton Sales staffer Jay Goodwin and wife Meredith will be in Timonium as KP Sales. Locals Becky Davis, Bill Reightler, Chanceland, Dark Hollow, North-view and Marshall Silverman bring big groups as usual, with New York consignors McMahon Thoroughbreds, Harry Landry Bloodstock, Vinery and others. Newcomers Hidden Lake Farm (with Landry) and Turn-ing Point Bloodstock are also on the list.

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The catalog includes a filly out of a half-sister to Maryland-bred star Knicks Go – who won Saratoga's Whitney Stakes-G1 in August – from breeder GreenMount Farm. The filly is by Tiznow and was second in her class at the Maryland Horse Breeders Association yearling show.

Bennett said Maryland consignor Davis brings three yearlings who were accepted to the more select Fasig-Tipton sales this year. A Munnings colt out of Formalities Aside is a half-brother to the Curlin colt First Mondays, who topped the Timonium sale at $450,000 in 2016. The Davis group includes 27 yearlings and sires such as Accelerate, Nyquist, Practical Joke, Protonico and Constitution.

Maryland's Dark Hollow Farm consigned 11 to the sale, the farm's full crop of 2021 yearlings. The squad includes horses by West Coast, Union Rags, Sky Mesa, Twirling Candy and three by Unified.

Dark Hollow's David Hayden credited a variety of factors for the decision – location, opportunity and the depth of the consignment.

"This is the first time we've ever done something like this, sent our entire crop of yearlings to one place," he said. "Keeneland is Keeneland and I know what you've got to take to Keeneland to ring the bell. I'm not saying we don't have those horses, but we've done very, very well with horses like this at Timonium and we have some of the stronger-pedigreed horses at Timonium. We feel we have a strong group."

Kentucky-based consignor Blake-Albina Thoroughbred Services sold yearlings this summer in Saratoga (select and New York-bred) and takes consignments to most yearling sales in the nation, but also doesn't miss Timonium.

The reasons are many, but focus on the buyers in attendance at the sale. While Timonium might not rival Saratoga or the early days of Keeneland September for big names, the Maryland sale lures more trainers looking for prospects – an important demographic that pushes the interest in some yearlings.

"Timonium's been our bread and butter the last few years," said Hanzly Albina, a partner in the business with Ron Blake. "We can take a really good racehorse or athlete-type horse over there. We get all the trainers over there. They're willing to forgive maybe some off-brand sires for athletes which a lot of markets aren't willing to do."

Blake-Albina sold 14 yearlings at Timonium last year – to trainers Kenny McPeek, Gary Contessa, Richard Vega, Butch Reid, New York owner John Behrendt, Pennsylvania owner Joe Besecker, Maryland agent Bill Reightler and so on.

"We have the ability to sell athletes over there and get fair money for them, that's why we like going, it's nice to go there, it's nice to be in Maryland," said Albina. "Other markets are very much about [catalog] page and in the Mid-Atlantic you get a lot of horsemen concentrated between Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia. They value the athlete maybe more than the whim of a stallion at any particular time, and there are people we see there and sell horses to there that we don't get to see or sell horses to at other sales."

The 2021 consignment will number 12, covering a variety of stallions, state breeding programs and other variables. A Maryland-bred Mor Spirit colt out of Corinnaise did not meet his reserve at Fasig-Tipton's July sale, but fits better at Timonium along with a Maryland-bred Cloud Computing filly out of Martini.

"They're both beautiful, stretchy, good-sized types that'll really stand out," Albina said. "I think they could hold their own in any sale."

SHAMROCK FARM, AGENT

Maryland-breds selling Oct. 4 & 5 at Timonium

Filly by BARBADOS–Tajol

Filly by BARBADOS–Irish Gal

Filly by BARBADOS–My Aunt Dianne

Filly by GOLDENCENTS–Tattooed Girl

Filly by GREAT NOTION–Caramore

Colt by MACLEAN'S MUSIC–Smart Policy

Colt by NOBLE MISSION (GB)–Striking Bella

Colt by MUNNINGS–Lucy Boo

Colt by POINT OF ENTRY–Miss Clairton (GB)

Colt by RIDE ON CURLIN–Andiemac

Jim McCue

$235,571-earner MONEY FROMHEAVEN (Munnings–Smart Policy), sales graduate from Shamrock Farm, winning Maryland Juvenile Filly Championship. Half brother sells in this year's consignment!

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Morgan's Ford Farm

2021 FT Midlantic Fall Yearlings

540-636-2220

From the family of ESSENTIAL QUALITY

Malibu Moon colt out of **Skipstone**

Tiznow filly out of **Gem**

2021 Maryland Million Day

OCTOBER 23 • LAUREL PARK

The ninth annual Unsung Hero Award will again be given this year in honor of Joe Kelly.

Joe was the first and only publicist for the Jim McKay Maryland Million Day racing program.

As a close friend of founder Jim McKay he was involved from the introduction of the concept in 1985 until his death in 2012. He was a mentor to writers, horsemen and fans alike, and loved our sport from his early days as a sports writer.

Joe Kelly embodied the character of the unsung hero. He was quiet and unassuming, and never sought personal attention or credit, yet was a role model for many. With this award his memory lives on, and is acknowledged annually on Jim McKay Maryland Million Day.

Your unsung hero candidate should embody characteristics that are valuable, but often go unrewarded. He or she should be honest, hardworking and humble. They should inspire and set a good example through their principles and actions.

To nominate your candidate you can request a nomination form by contacting the Maryland Million Ltd. office – either by phone, 410-252-2100 ext. 113, or e-mail jordyn@marylandthoroughbred.com – or go to the Maryland Million website at MarylandMillion.com.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Has demonstrated a particular commitment, impact or contribution to the Thoroughbred industry or equine community in general
- Has been involved in the Thoroughbred industry in Maryland for at least five years

Nominations are due by October 1

STAKES WINNERS

Complete statistics on 2021 Mid-Atlantic-bred stakes winners available at MidAtlanticTB.com, including interactive pedigrees, race records, produce records of dam, and more.

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

SMD Limited's Leader of the Band topped a Mid-Atlantic-bred trifecta in the $250,000 Monmouth Oaks-G3 over Maryland-bred Edie Meeny Miny Mo and fellow Pennsylvania-bred Midnight Obsession.

Maryland-bred

CAN THE QUEEN, b.m., 2016, Can the Man—Queenterra, by Empire Maker. Bred by Carol Ann Kaye; owned by Joanne Shankle; trained by Rodolfo Sanchez-Salomon. $100,000 **Sensible Lady Turf Dash S**, 5 fur., turf, F&M, 3&up, Pimlico, July 24.

CAVALIER CUPID, dk.b./br.f., 2019, Quality Road—El Vedado, by Big Brown. Bred & owned by Big Lick Farm; trained by Sarah Nagle. $100,000 **Keswick S**, 5 fur., turf, registered VA-bred/sired or VA certified 2YO fillies, Colonial, Aug. 2.

FIELD PASS, gr./ro.c., 2017, Lemon Drop Kid—Only Me, by Runaway Groom. Bred by Mark Brown Grier; owned by Three Diamonds Farm; trained by Michael J. Maker. $200,000 **Baltimore/Washington International Turf Cup S-G3**, 1 mi., turf, 3&up, Pimlico, July 24.

GRATEFUL BRED, dk.b./br.g., 2016, Great Notion—Malibu Moment, by Malibu Moon. Bred & owned by Gordon C. Keys; trained by Madison F. Meyers. $100,000 **Meadow Stable S**, 5½ fur., turf, registered VA-bred/sired or VA certified, 3&up, Colonial, July 19.

HARPERS FIRST RIDE, dk.b./br.g., 2016, Paynter—Polyester, by Tiz Wonderful. Bred by Sagamore Farm; owned by GMP Stables LLC, Arnold Bennewith & Cypress Creek Equine; trained by Claudio A. Gonzalez. $100,000 **Deputed Testamony S**, 1⅛ mi., 3&up, Pimlico, July 31.

HELLO BEAUTIFUL, dk.b./br.f., 2017, Golden Lad—Hello Now, by Tiznow. Bred by Hillwood Stables; owned by Madaket Stables LLC, Albert Frasetto, Mark Parkinson, K-Mac Stables & Magic City Stables LLC; trained by Brittany Russell. $100,000 **What a Summer S**, 6 fur., F&M, 4 & up, Laurel, Jan. 16; $100,000 **Alma North S**, 6 fur., F&M, 3&up, Pimlico, July 31.

FUELED BY The Mill

KNICKS GO, gr./ro.h., 2016, Paynter—Kosmo's Buddy, by Outflanker. Bred by Angie Moore; owned by Korea Racing Authority; trained by Brad H. Cox. $3,000,000 **Pegasus World Cup Invitational S-G1**, 1⅛ mi., 4 & up, Gulfstream, Jan. 23; $300,000 **Prairie Meadows Cornhusker H-G3**, 1⅛ mi., 3&up, Prairie Meadows, July 2; $1,000,000 **Whitney S-G1**, 1⅛ mi., 4&up, Saratoga, Aug. 7.

LOCAL MOTIVE, b.g., 2019, Divining Rod—Wild for Love, by Not For Love. Bred by Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC, Greenspring Mares LLC & Bowman & Higgins Stable; owned by Bird Mobberley LLC; trained by John E. Salzman Jr. $100,000 **Hickory Tree S**, 5 fur., turf, registered VA-bred/sired or VA certified 2YOs, Colonial, Aug. 2.

New Jersey-bred

GROOVY SURPRISE, b.f., 2017, Giant Surprise—Good and Groovy, by Good and Tough. Bred & owned by Hope Haskell Jones; trained by Rory K. Huston. $75,000 **Smart N Classy H**, 1 mi., registered NJ-bred F&M, 3&up, Monmouth, June 27; $85,000 **Jersey Girl H**, 1 mi. (off turf), registered NJ-bred F&M, 3&up, Monmouth, July 18; 3rd **Spruce Fir H**.

HE'SPUREGOLD, b.g., 2018, Vancouver (Aus)—Smart N Classy, by Smart Strike. Bred by John Bowers Jr.; owned by Roseland Farm Stable (Bowers); trained by Kelly J. Breen. $85,000 **Irish War Cry H**, 1 mi., turf, registered NJ-breds, 3&up, Monmouth, July 24.

Pennsylvania-bred

CARAVEL, gr./ro.f., 2017, Mizzen Mast—Zeezee Zoomzoom, by Congrats. Bred & trained by Elizabeth M. Merryman; owned by Bobby Flay and Elizabeth M. Merryman. $100,000 **The Very One S**, 5 fur., turf, F&M, 3&up, Pimlico, May 14; $75,000 **Goldwood S**, 5 fur., turf, F&M, 3&up, Monmouth, June 25; $200,000 **Caress S-G3**, 5½ fur., turf, F&M, 4 & up, Saratoga, July 24; 3rd **License Fee S**.

FUELED BY The Mill

DARCY MAE, b.m., 2014, K One King—Krista's Quik Chic, by Forestry. Bred by Gunpowder Farms, LLC; owned & trained by Katy Cheeks. $100,000 **Princess of Sylmar S**, 1 mi. 70 yds., registered Pa.-bred F&M, 3&up, Presque Isle, July 26.

JUST ONE TIME, ch.f., 2018, Not This Time—Ida Clark, by Speightstown. Bred & owned by by Warrior's Reward LLC; trained by Michael W. Salvaggio Jr. $100,000 **Malvern Rose S**, 6½ fur., registered Pa.-bred 3YO fillies, Presque Isle, July 19.

LEADER OF THE BAND, b.f., 2018, Bandbox—Catsuit, by Sir Cat. Bred & owned by SMD Limited; trained by John C. Servis. $250,000 **Monmouth Oaks-G3**, 1⅛ mi., 3YO fillies, Monmouth, July 31; 3rd **Delaware Oaks-G3**.

THE CRITICAL WAY, dk.b./br.g., 2014, Tizway—Critical Factor, by Star de Naskra. Bred by Blackstone Farm LLC; owned by Monster Racing Stables; trained by Jose H. Delgado. $75,000 **Turf Dash S**, 5 fur., turf, 4 & up, Tampa Bay, Feb. 24; $75,000 **Get Serious S**, 5 fur., turf, 3&up, Monmouth, June 19; $100,000 **Wolf Hill S**, abt. 5½ fur., turf, 3&up, Monmouth, July 17; 2nd **Jim McKay Turf Sprint S**; 3rd **Shakertown S-G2, Janus S**.

WAIT FOR IT, b.g., 2015, Uptowncharlybrown—Kimberley Diamond, by Posse. Bred by Fantasy Lane Stable; owned by Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC; trained by Edward J. Coletti Jr. $100,000 **Page McKenney H**, 7 fur., registered Pa.-breds, 3&up, Parx, April 27; $100,000 **Hard Spun S**, 1 mi. 70 yds., registered Pa.-breds, 3&up, Presque Isle, July 27.

Virginia-bred

PASSION PLAY, b.g., 2016, Hold Me Back—Stylish Affair, by Not For Love. Bred by Mr. & Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin III; owned by Reiley McDonald; trained by Mary E. Eppler. $100,000 **Bert Allen S**, 1⅛ mi., turf, registered VA-bred/sired or VA certified, 3&up, Colonial, July 19.

TASTING THE STARS, b.m., 2016, Bodemeister—Pink Champagne, by Awesome Again. Bred by Audley Farm Equine LLC; owned by Newtown Anner Stud Farm; trained by John C. Kimmel. $100,000 **Nellie Mae Cox S**, 1 mi., turf, registered VA-bred/sired or VA certified F&M, 3&up, Colonial, July 19.

Pre-Entry Books online at MarylandMillion.com

2021 Maryland Million© Day

OCTOBER 23 • LAUREL PARK

For more information contact Racing Office 800.638.1859 or Maryland Million Ltd. 410.252.2100

Jillian Tullock, Racing Secretary / Trish Bowman, Stakes Coordinator
Laurel Park 800.638.1859 or fax 301.725.4561 • www.laurelpark.com

Horses by these stallions, who were conceived in Maryland and fully nominated/certified to the Maryland Million program, are eligible to run in Maryland Million races.

Aaron's Way
Admiral Alex
Alliance
Amerrico's Bullet
Baltimore Bob
Bandbox
Barbados
Blofeld
Bourbon Courage
Buffum
Bullsbay
Cage Fighter
Cal Nation
Cat Country
Cherokee's Boy
Crypto Star
Cuba
Dance With Ravens
Deputy Storm
Despite the Odds
Divining Rod
Domestic Dispute
Dortmund
E Dubai
Editorial
Elusive Charlie
Etched
Eternal Star
Fantasticat
Fleet Foot
Freedom Child
Friesan Fire
Gandhi
Gators N Bears
Giacomo
Go for Gin
Golden Lad
Goldmember
Great Notion
Greek Sun
Gyrfalcon (GB)
Hangover Kid
Heaven's Glory (JPN)
Holy Boss
Hunters Bay
Imagining
Ken Doll
Kendalls Bear
Kobe's Back
La Reine's Terms
Lion Hearted
Louis Quatorze
Love of Money
M Eighty
Madefromlucky
McKendree
Medallist
Modern Cowboy
Mojave Moon
Money's Star
Mosler
Mr. Shoplifter
Nicanor
No Armistice
Norumbega
Not Abroad
Not For Love
Oratory
Orientate
Outflanker
Parker's Storm Cat
Pass You Bye Bye
Petionville
Plan
Polish Payola
Port Vila (FR)
Private Scandal
Pulverizing
Purple Passion
Que Man
Redeemed
Regal American
Rock Slide
Rush Bay
Same Day Delivery
Scipion
Seeking Daylight
Seville (GER)
Showing Up
St Averil
Standing Room Only
Sticks and Bricks
Street Magician
Super Ninety Nine
Tomahawk Lake
Trial Prep
Tritap
Two Punch
Unbridled Mate
Unfettered
Wayne County (IRE)
Yarrow Brae

The above list shows nominated stallions with horses of racing age. Stallion must have been nominated for the specific year the horse was conceived. Some stallions listed here may not be eligible for every year.

PRE-ENTRY DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2021

$150K Maryland Million Classic* Three-year-olds & up, 1⅛ mi.

$100K Maryland Million Turf* Three-year-olds & up, 1⅛ mi., turf

$100K Maryland Million Ladies* Fillies & mares, 3-year-olds & up, 1⅛ mi., turf

$100K Maryland Million Distaff* Fillies & mares, 3-year-olds & up, 7 fur.

$100K Maryland Million Sprint* 3-year-olds & up, 6 fur.

$100K Maryland Million Lassie* Fillies, 2-year-olds, 6 fur. No Lasix.

$100K Maryland Million Nursery* Two-year-olds, 6 fur. No Lasix.

$75K Maryland Million Turf Sprint* 3-year-olds & up, 5½ fur.

$50K Maryland Million and/or Registered Maryland-Bred Turf Starter Handicap 3-year-olds & up, who have started for a claiming price of $12,500 or less since October 25, 2020, 1⅛ mi., turf. First preference to Maryland Million-certified horses. This is a starter/stakes.

$50K Maryland Million and/or Registered Maryland-Bred Turf Distaff Starter Handicap Fillies & mares, 3-year-olds & up, who have started for a claiming price of $12,500 or less since October 25, 2020, 1⅛ mi., turf. First preference to Maryland Million-certified horses. This is a starter/stakes.

$40K Maryland Million and/or Registered Maryland-Bred Starter Handicap 3-year-olds & up, who have started for a claiming price of $8,000 or less since October 25, 2020, 7f. First preference to Maryland Million-certified horses. This is a starter/stakes.

$40K Maryland Million and/or Registered Maryland-Bred Distaff Starter Handicap Fillies and mares, 3-year-olds & up, who have started for a claiming price of $8,000 or less since October 25, 2020, 7f. First preference to Maryland Million-certified horses. This is a starter/stakes.

*For horses certified to Maryland Million Ltd. Registered Maryland-breds that are not Maryland Million-sired will be able to pre-enter and race ONLY if the race has less than eight (8) Maryland Million-sired entries. See Pre-Entry book for additional details.

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And then some

Wild Haskell delivers plenty as Mandaloun wins Grade 1 by DQ

BY CINDY DEUBLER. PHOTOGRAPHS BY EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

Thrilling. Terrifying. Dramatic. This year's Grade 1 Haskell Stakes at Monmouth Park was a roller coaster ride with all the makings of a summer blockbuster movie.

The cast that turned out July 17 included Hot Rod Charlie, Mandaloun and Midnight Bourbon, each with seconds in the spring classics, yet still looking for a first Grade 1 win. The lightly raced Following Sea shipped in from Todd Pletcher's New York-based barn for his first try at stakes company at the highest level. Three local hopefuls, all extreme longshots, joined the mix.

Cue a stretch battle–and with great relief a tragedy avoided after Midnight Bourbon clipped heels and nearly fell midstretch–and California shipper and race favorite Hot Rod Charlie put his nose in front of Mandaloun at the wire. Then the inquiry, and the replays, and the gasps–and for the first time in 54 runnings, the Haskell winner was disqualified.

Juddmonte Farms' homebred Mandaloun, trained by Brad Cox, was awarded the victory in the $1 million race and became the second consecutive Haskell winner for his sire Into Mischief after Authentic in 2020.

"It is not the best way to win, but Mandaloun ran a winning race and deserves this," said his rider Florent Geroux, aboard in all eight of the colt's starts.

"It was an unusual race, but we still feel like he ran a winning race and it tastes the same," said Garrett O'Rourke, general manager of the American division of Juddmonte Farms.

So focused was trainer Brad Cox on Mandaloun as he fought down the stretch, he said he wasn't aware of what happened behind his horse.

"Turning for home I thought we had a big shot at winning the race," said Cox immediately after meeting his colt in the winner's circle. "I thought we ran a winning race. . . I'm proud of the effort and the performance.

"I was not sure if that horse [Midnight Bourbon] ducked in behind Hot Rod Charlie or if Hot Rod Charlie came over on him. Once I saw the head-on and the replay, I saw it. It didn't take them long to change it and it was pretty obvious they would make a change."

Gritty, determined, consistent and familiar were the Triple Crown veterans who entered the gate for the Haskell. Mandaloun had won the Grade 2 Risen Star at Fair Grounds in February and tailed Medina Spirit on the front end throughout the Kentucky Derby-G1 to finish second. Mandaloun prepped for the Haskell with a win in Monmouth's Pegasus–the overwhelming favorite in the field of five, he managed to hold on to win by a neck in his first start since the Derby.

Mandaloun (right) and Hot Rod Charlie battle down the stretch as Paco Lopez lies on the track after parting company with Midnight Bourbon.

Hot Rod Charlie entered off a second behind Mandaloun's stablemate, champion Essential Quality, in the Belmont-G1. First, second or third in six straight races, five graded stakes, including a second in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile-G1 and third in the Kentucky Derby, Hot Rod Charlie took his game to the next level in the Belmont, battling for the lead from the start in the 1½-mile classic and giving way grudgingly to Essential Quality late, while distancing the rest of the field (it was 11¼ lengths back to Preakness-G1 winner Rombauer in third).

Midnight Bourbon, second to Rombauer in the Preakness, won his first start of the year in Fair Grounds' Lecomte Stakes-G3 in January, where Mandaloun was third. The order was flipped next out in the Risen Star. Midnight Bourbon chased Hot Rod Charlie throughout the Louisiana Derby-G2 to finish second; favorite Mandaloun was sixth.

As the field rounded the far turn in the Haskell off modest early fractions of :23.82 and :47.32 set by Following Sea and Midnight Bourbon, there were four horses spread across the track. Following Sea backed out first as Midnight Bourbon and Paco Lopez gunned for the lead.

While Lopez kept peeking under his arm to his left to see Mandaloun's blinkered head moving up, Midnight Bourbon was drifting out, taking Hot Rod Charlie wide, and leaving a gap for Mandaloun to slip through and draw even.

Midnight Bourbon and Mandaloun wandered back toward the rail as Hot Rod Charlie accelerated to join them. Mandaloun drifted out a path and started to pull ahead of Midnight Bourbon. Hot Rod Charlie came in a path to join him. And Midnight Bourbon, sandwiched between, was squeezed back, caught the heels of Hot Rod Charlie, tripped badly and, while managing to stay on his feet, toppled Lopez to the track under his feet. Adding to the horror, Lopez was then struck by Following Sea.

The two leaders were flying. Hot Rod Charlie had the edge on Mandaloun in deep stretch but Mandaloun did not give way and they were a team at the wire, with Hot Rod Charlie's nose in front on the head bob. Midnight Bourbon actually crossed the wire third ahead of Following Sea, who was 18¼ lengths behind the top two. The final time of 1:47.38 was just off the 1:47 stakes record held by Bet Twice (1987) and Majestic Light (1976) and the fastest since Rachel Alexandra's 1:47.21 in 2009.

Mandaloun gallops out after crossing the line second, but eventually being declared the winner, in the Haskell.

Midnight Bourbon galloped out, was caught by the outrider and returned to the barn. Reports from Winchell Thoroughbreds' general manager David Fiske the next day noted: "They did X-rays on him and jogged him this morning. The X-rays were no different than what they showed before the race and he seems to be jogging better today than he was yesterday." By early August, the Steve Asmussen-trained Tiznow colt had posted two breezes at Saratoga.

And, 18 hours after falling from Midnight Bourbon, Lopez rode the first race at Monmouth and won. Through Aug. 13 he was the runaway leading rider at the track by wins (58) and earnings (nearly $2.3 million).

While he didn't get the win, Hot Rod Charlie's stock continued to rise, and he and Mandaloun each joined the top 10 on the NTRA Top Thoroughbred Poll, where they remained in mid-August.

Juddmonte announced Aug. 9 that Mandaloun was taken out of training for the remainder of the year due to a sore right hind foot. While Mandaloun won't race again this year—he is expected to return for an attempt at the $20 million Saudi Cup next February—there is still a chance he could be credited with another win, depending on the ruling handed down after Medina Spirit's test results in the Kentucky Derby. Should there be an official disqualification, Mandaloun would be declared the Derby winner.

A two-time Grade 1 winner off two disqualifications? Hollywood wouldn't dream up such an ending, but racing might.

GRADE 1 UNITED NATIONS HAS INTERNATIONAL FLAIR

Trainer Chad Brown shipped in three runners for the 68th running of the Grade 1 United Nations, representing the countries of England, Chile and France. The most striking of the trio was Tribhuvan (Fr). The bay gelding stood out in the paddock, drew oohs and ahhs when parading on the track, and went off the 1.70-1 favorite in the field of 10.

And then he ran to his looks. Shooting to the front under Flavien Prat, Tribhuvan was lengths clear the entire 1⅜-mile trip and, ridden out to the wire, crossed the line 2 lengths ahead of longshot Imperador (Arg). The other Brown runners finished fourth and ninth.

Tribhuvan, 5, launched his career in his native country, galloping around the handicap division at eight tracks—and even made a jaunt to Sweden—before joining Brown's barn following the 2019 season. The son of Toronado (Ire) had an inauspicious American stakes debut in the 2020 Fort Marcy-G2 at Belmont, as his rein snapped soon after the break. The chartcaller notes covered his and rider Jose Ortiz's adventure: "steered extremely wide and out of harm's way to any of the others despite being basically rudderless, remained so both on the backstretch and the far turn, got expertly guided over to the rail once in the stretch, was subsequently apprehended by an outrider inside the sixteenth pole and walked off the course."

Tribhuvan raced once more last year, winning a Belmont allowance, and returned to win the 2021 Fort Marcy in

Top: Tribhuvan leads a crowd around the final turn in the Grade 1 United Nations and gave trainer Chad Brown his fourth win in the race.
Bottom: Graceful Princess, a daughter of legendary sire Tapit and Horse of the Year Havre de Grace, wins the Molly Pitcher.

May. He entered the U.N. off a second to stablemate Domestic Spending (GB) in the Manhattan-G1 in June.

For Brown, it was his fourth United Nations win in nine years.

"The U.N. has a great tradition," said Brown. "It's one of the races that we point to every year if we have the right horses. It's really been an honor to win four of them."

GRACEFUL PRINCESS BRINGS BACK MEMORIES

Ten years ago Rick Porter's 4-year-old filly Havre de Grace was putting on a show. The daughter of Saint Liam, based at Delaware Park with Larry Jones, was in the midst of a campaign that would earn her Eclipse Awards as Horse of the Year and champion older mare–which included wins in the Woodward-G1 in Saratoga against males, the Beldame Invitational-G1 at Belmont Park by more than 8 lengths over Royal Delta, and a fourth, beaten 3 lengths, in the Breeders' Cup Classic-G1.

But many of her most memorable races were in the Mid-Atlantic region while facing nemesis Blind Luck, including a battle in the 2011 Delaware Handicap-G2 as the two fought side-by-side down the stretch with Blind Luck getting the decision by a nose. Ten years and one day after that race, Havre de Grace's daughter Graceful Princess took to the track for the Grade 3 Molly Pitcher Stakes and recorded her first stakes victory, closing steadily to win by three-quarters of a length as the fifth choice (14-1) in the eight-horse field.

"She's always been a filly who trained like she was capable of doing something like this, so it's great to see her put it all together," said Todd Pletcher, who conditions the 5-year-old daughter of Tapit for her breeder, Mandy Pope's Whisper Hill Farm. In her previous start Graceful Princess had finished fifth in Delaware Park's Obeah Stakes, a race her dam won in 2011.

Pope purchased Havre de Grace for $10 million as a broodmare prospect at Fasig-Tipton Kentucky's star-studded fall mixed sale in 2012. Residing at Timber Town Stables in Lexington, Ky., Havre de Grace was bred to Tapit five times in six years–Graceful Princess is her third foal. Her first, the winning Tapit filly Heavenly Grace, joined the Whisper Hill Farm broodmare band and delivered a colt by Gun Runner in March, six days after Havre de Grace delivered a colt by Justify.

A winner first time out at 2 at Saratoga, the lightly raced Graceful Princess has made 13 starts, with three wins, for earnings of $261,474, and was third in a blanket finish in Keeneland's Doubledogdare Stakes-G3 in April.

"She's arguably one of the best-bred fillies on the planet," said Pletcher. "For her to win a race like this is huge." ✹

Stakes results for Monmouth

7/4 John J. Reilly H ($75K). 6 F. Reg. NJ-Bred, 3&up.

Winner: **GOLDEN BROWN** (dk.b./br.g., 6, Offlee Wild—Suzee Sunrise, by Chester House). B-Esther de Jong (N.J.). O-ABL Stable, Dominic Bossone, Peter Donnelly and Nadine Schnoor. T-Patrick B. McBurney. J-Paco Lopez. Time: 1:09.00. Margin: 2¾. 2nd: **Optic Way**. 3rd: **Prendimi**.

7/10 Blue Sparkler ($75K). 5½ F. Off Turf. 3YO F.

Winner: **CILLA** (b.f., California Chrome—Sittin At the Bar, by Into Mischief). B-Brett A. Brinkman and P. Dale Ladner (La.). O-P. Dale Ladner. T-Brett A. Brinkman. J-Roberto Alvarado Jr. Time: 1:03.07. Margin: 2½. 2nd: **Dr B**. 3rd: **Decade**.

7/11 My Frenchman ($75K). Abt. 5½ F. Turf. 3YO.

Winner: **CHASING ARTIE** (dk.b./br.g., We Miss Artie—Frisky Kitten, by Kitten's Joy). B/O-Kenneth L. Ramsey and Sarah K. Ramsey (Ky.). T-Wesley A. Ward. J-Albin Jimenez. Time: 1:03.87. Margin: neck. 2nd: **Momos**. 3rd: **Arzak**.

7/17 Haskell-G1 ($1M). 1⅛ mi. 3YO.

Winner: **MANDALOUN** (b.c., Into Mischief—Brooch, by Empire Maker). B/O-Juddmonte Farms Inc. (Ky.). T-Brad H. Cox. J-Florent Geroux. Time: 1:47.38. Margin: (nose), 18¼. 2nd: **Following Sea**. 3rd: **Antigravity**. (DQ from 1st to 7th): Hot Rod Charlie.

7/17 United Nations-G1 ($500K). 1⅜ mi. Turf. 3&up.

Winner: **TRIBHUVAN (FR)** (b.g., 5, Toronado-Ire—Mahendra, by Next Desert). B-Jean Charles Haimet, Elza Petit and Hannah Petit (France). O-Michael Dubb, Madaket Stables LLC, Wonder Stables and Michael J. Caruso. T-Chad C. Brown. J-Flavien Prat. Time: 2:15.48. Margin: 2. 2nd: **Imperador (Arg)**. 3rd: **Epic Bromance**.

7/17 Monmouth Cup-G3 ($300K). 1⅛ mi. 3&up.

Winner: **DR POST** (dk.b./br.c., 4, Quality Road—Mary Delaney, by Hennessy). B-Cloyce C. Clark (Ky.). O-St. Elias Stable. T-Todd A. Pletcher. J-Joel Rosario. Time: 1:47.53. Margin: 1¼. 2nd: **Night Ops**. 3rd: **Bankit**.

7/17 Molly Pitcher-G3 ($250K). 1 1/16 mi. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **GRACEFUL PRINCESS** (b.m., 5, Tapit—Havre de Grace, by Saint Liam). B/O-Whisper Hill Farm LLC (Ky.). T-Todd A. Pletcher. J-Joel Rosario. Time: 1:41.67. Margin: ¾. 2nd: **Bajan Girl**. 3rd: **Our Super Freak**.

7/17 Matchmaker-G3 ($150K). 1⅛ mi. Turf. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **GREAT ISLAND** (ch.m., 5, Scat Daddy—Voyage, by Rahy). B-Ben P. Walden Jr. and Larry Taylor (Ky). O-Alpha Delta Stables LLC. T-Chad C. Brown. J-Joel Rosario. Time: 1:48.89. Margin: ½. 2nd: **Kalifornia Queen (Ger)**. 3rd: **Juliet Foxtrot (GB)**.

7/17 Wolf Hill ($100K). Abt. 5½ F. Turf. 3&up.

Winner: **THE CRITICAL WAY** (dk.b./br.g., 7, Tizway—Critical Factor, by Star de Naskra). B-Blackstone Farm (Pa.). O-Monster Racing Stables. T-Jose H. Delgado. J-Paco Lopez. Time: 1:01.11. Margin: ¾. 2nd: **The Connector**. 3rd: **Cajun Casanova**.

7/18 Jersey Girl ($85K). 1 mi. Off Turf. Reg. NJ-Bred, 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **GROOVY SURPRISE** (b.f., 4, Giant Surprise—Good and Groovy, by Good and Tough). B/O-Hope Haskell Jones (N.J.). T-Rory K. Huston. J-Mychel J. Sanchez. Time: 1:39.11. Margin: head. 2nd: **Bramble Bay**. 3rd: **Diamond Play**.

7/24 Irish War Cry H ($85K). 1 mi. Turf. Reg. NJ-Bred, 3&up.

Winner: **HE'SPUREGOLD** (b.g., 3, Vancouver-Aus—Smart N Classy, by Smart Strike). B-John Bowers Jr. (N.J.). O-Roseland Farm Stable (Bowers). T-Kelly J. Breen. J-Nik Juarez. Time: 1:35.53. Margin: 1. 2nd: **Quiberon Bay**. 3rd: **Optic Way**.

7/31 Monmouth Oaks-G3 ($250K). 1 1/16 mi. 3YO F.

Winner: **LEADER OF THE BAND** (b.f., Bandbox—Catsuit, by Sir Cat). B/O-SMD Limited. T-John C. Servis. J-Frankie Pennington. Time: 1:43.44. Margin: 2. 2nd: **Edie Meeny Miny Mo**. 3rd: **Midnight Obsession**.

7/31 Tale of the Cat ($100K). 1 1/16 mi. Turf. 3YO.

Winner: **FOUNDER** (b.r., Upstart—Blue Beryl, by Bernstein). B-Lantern Hill Farm LLC (Ky.). O-Jeff Drown and Don Rachel. T-Chad C. Brown. J-Paco Lopez. Time: 1:41.81. Margin: 1¼. 2nd: **It Can Be Done**. 3rd: **Hot Blooded**.

8/1 Colleen ($100K). 5 F. Turf. 2YO F.

Winner: **MISS ALACRITY** (ch.f., Munnings—Just Jenda, by Menifee). B-Milfer Farm Inc. (N.Y.). O-CJ Thoroughbreds. T-Wesley A. Ward. J-Paco Lopez. Time: :57.23. Margin: 2¾. 2nd: **Sail By**. 3rd: **Tizplenty**.

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No Fiasco

Tightly Twisted wins Big Dreyfus turf stakes for owner/trainer Bennett

BY NOLAN CLANCY. PHOTOGRAPHS BY JIM MCCUE

Juanita Bennett walked out to the field behind Mike Trombetta's barn at Fair Hill Training Center to check on 60 percent of her stable on a Tuesday morning in early August.

Two horses grazed, one held by Bennett's husband Jeff, another by longtime friend Gail Hanford. In between, Tightly Twisted, winner of the Big Dreyfus Stakes at Pimlico Race Course nine days earlier, meandered in a round pen.

"She just has made our year," Bennett said of the 5-year-old mare, whose two wins in three 2021 starts firmly stamped the Bennett barn beyond its 2020 win total. Bennett was 4-for-11 on the year, matching her win total for all of 2019 and outpacing last year's 1-for-21 record by plenty. Tightly Twisted led the way with the stakes win, plus a Delaware Park allowance score June 28, to go along with victories by Unconquered Spirit June 9 and Minding Millie June 23 at Penn National.

You have to go back a bit to find such a run of success for Bennett. She won nine races in 1993, seven in 1995, was blanked in 1998, 1999 and 2000, didn't start a horse at all from 2003-12. Bennett isn't exactly big time and that's just fine, but she'll take the run of success.

"Compared to last year? Incredible," she said, with a nod to the current attitude around the barn.

Based in five stalls in a wing of Trombetta's barn at Fair Hill, and at nearby Fiasco Farms over the state line in Pennsylvania, Bennett breeds, owns, trains and otherwise

MAGGIE KIMMITT

Top, Tightly Twisted wins the Big Dreyfus Stakes and, bottom, spends some time with the team at Fair Hill. From left, Luis Barajas, Laura Barajas, Juanita Bennett, Gail Hanford, Mel Williams, Jhonatan Mendoza, Jeff Bennett and Wes Bennett.

cares for a small band of Thoroughbreds with various roles in racing—from broodmares to young horses to racehorses in those stalls rented from Trombetta.

Fiasco is named for her first horse—a half-Arabian, half Morgan who showed, evented, competed in endurance rides and even pulled a carriage at the Bennetts' wedding—and she says the name fits, for horse and farm.

It's a do-whatever-it-takes group project, staffed by Juanita, Jeff, exercise rider/jockey/helping hand Jhonatan Mendoza and a handful of others who take on the various roles of horse care.

"Every morning, we get here early and they all go out in either grass paddocks or the round pens and be horses," Bennett said of the schedule.

Mendoza joined the stable last year and instantly became an integral piece of the operation.

"We hired him last year, because we had five horses and we were always struggling with riders," Bennett said. "He has been a godsend."

For proof, Bennett pointed to her 2021 record. After being restricted by Covid regulations at most racetracks last year, Mendoza has been on all of Bennett's starters this year—eliminating the jockey dilemma facing many small trainers.

"They're like, 'Juanita Bennett? Who's that? I don't know anything about her horses,'" she said of some other jockeys. "They'd get on and get their $100 and that was about it. And it showed. This year, Jhonatan is back, he rides them every morning, he does whatever. He knows them, he grazes them, he does everything."

Since becoming the full-time stable jockey, Mendoza raised Bennett's winning percentage from 5 percent in 2020 to 36 percent so far in 2021.

"Whatever needs to be done, Jhonatan takes care of it," said Jeff. "He'll tack them when he needs to, he grooms them, when he gets back he'll give them a bath. Whatever it takes."

Bennett's five horses in training get nearly one-on-one care every day. A team of family and friends make it all possible.

There's Gail, a former trainer in her own right and daughter of Hall of Fame trainer Carl Hanford. Kelso's trainer died in 2011, but his legacy lives on in Bennett's operation with his daughter and a couple horses too.

First is a 3-year-old gelding by Ironicus out of the Bowman's Band mare Marcie Lee (a Fiasco homebred who won three times) named Hanford. He's known simply as "Carl" around the barn and is winless in seven lifetime starts though he's been third twice and was beaten 5½ lengths in Pimlico's Bald Eagle Derby July 24.

Carl Hanford, who became a steward after his training career, was never the only Hanford at Delaware Park, as his wife Millie was a fixture at the track for decades—checking badges and hand stamps by the paddock gate for more than 25 years, and telling stories to anyone who would listen. She passed away in 2006, but Bennett trainee Minding Millie brings back memories. Bred in Pennsylvania by the Bennetts, the 3-year-old daughter of Mineshaft and the Caller I. D. mare Who's Happy—who won six races including the First Approach Stakes twice for Fiasco and trainer Tim Woolley—broke her maiden in June. In addition, Who's Happy has produced four-time winner R U Happy Now (by E Dubai) and has a 2-year-old filly by Congrats.

Sticking with the Hanford theme, Bennett hints at naming one Gail Force someday, but that will have to wait. She and Gail have been friends for decades, and appreciate the long connection.

"I spent a lot of time with them growing up in Delaware," Juanita said of the Hanfords, who she met on the Ross family's farm north of Delaware Park near Hockessin in the 1970s. "I keep asking Gail, 'Can you imagine what your mother and father would think of this?' when we are standing there in the winner's circle."

They'd be pretty proud.

A few years ago, faced with signing a long-term lease on some space in another barn at Fair Hill, Bennett talked to Trombetta at the suggestion of veterinarian Dr. Kathy Anderson and Fair Hill manager Sally Goswell. He's one of the bigger names there, with one of the newer barns, and trains dozens of horses there and at Laurel Park. He wins more races some weeks than Bennett wins in a year.

"I remember thinking, 'He's not going to rent stalls to me,'" said Bennett. "I went over and asked, explained what we do and he just said sure. It's worked out great."

The Fiasco team also includes Juanita's brother-in-law Wes Bennett, called the stable "P.R. Man" by the trainer—though he humbly swaps the title for "B.S. man."

Stakes results for Pimlico

7/24 Baltimore/Washington Int'l Turf Cup-G3 ($200K). 1 mi. Turf. 3&up.

Winner: **FIELD PASS** (gr./ro.c., 4, Lemon Drop Kid—Only Me, by Runaway Groom). B-Mark Grier (Md.). O-Three Diamonds Farm. T-Michael J. Maker. J-Victor R. Carrasco. Time: 1:35.12. Margin: neck. 2nd: **Ramsey Solution**. 3rd: **Talk Or Listen (Ire)**.

7/24 Bald Eagle Derby ($100K). 1½ mi. Turf. 3YO.

Winner: **INDIAN LAKE** (b.g., Daredevil—Stormy Situation, by Stormy Atlantic). B-Serendipity Farm (Ky.). O-Gap View Stables and Jagger Inc. T-Jamie Ness. J-Ruben Silvera. Time: 2:32.08. Margin: ¾. 2nd: **Experienced**. 3rd: **Wootton Asset (Fr)**.

7/24 Big Dreyfus ($100K). 1⅛ mi. Turf. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **TIGHTLY TWISTED** (dk.b./br.m., 5, Hard Spun—Holdontoyourdream, by Proud Citizen). B-Normandy Farm (Ky.). O-Fiasco Farms. T-Juanita Bennett. J-Jhonatan Mendoza. Time: 1:48.05. Margin: ½. 2nd: **Counterparty Risk (Ire)**. 3rd: **Sailingintothewind**.

7/24 Sensible Lady Turf Dash ($100K). 5 F. Turf. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **CAN THE QUEEN** (b.m., 5, Can the Man—Queenterra, by Empire Maker). B-Carol Ann Kaye (Md.). O-Joanne Shankle. T-Rodolfo Sanchez-Salomon. J-Victor R. Carrasco. Time: :56.41. Margin: 1¾. 2nd: **Flyingontheground**. 3rd: **What a Trick**.

7/31 Alma North ($100K). 6 F. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **HELLO BEAUTIFUL** (dk.b./br.f., 4, Golden Lad—Hello Now, by Tiznow). B-Hillwood Stables (Md.). O-Madaket Stables, Albert Frassetto, Mark Parkinson, K-Mac Stables and Magic City Stables. T-Brittany Russell. J-Sheldon Russell. Time: 1:09.63. Margin: 3¾. 2nd: **Call On Mischief**. 3rd: **Precious**.

THE MATCH SERIES Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred Championships
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7/31 Challedon ($100K). 6 F. 3&up.

Winner: **MUCHO** (b.h., 5, Blame—Extent, by Pulpit). B-Claiborne Farm and Adele B. Dilschneider (Ky.). O-WSS Racing and 4 G Racing. T-John A. Ortiz. J-Reylu Gutierrez. Time: 1:10.09. Margin: 1. 2nd: **Lebda**. 3rd: **Whereshetoldmetogo**.

THE MATCH SERIES Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred Championships

7/31 Deputed Testamony ($100K). 1⅛ mi. 3&up.

Winner: **HARPERS FIRST RIDE** (dk.b./br.g., 5, Paynter—Polyester, by Tiz Wonderful). B-Sagamore Farm (Md.). O-GMP Stables, Arnold Bennewith and Cypress Creek Equine. T-Claudio A. Gonzalez. J-Angel Cruz. Time: 1:49.52. Margin: 1½. 2nd: **Magic Michael**. 3rd: **Cordmaker**.

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And of course, there's Jeff, whose retirement celebration from 35 years as a corporate pilot for Campbell's Soup a few years ago landed them the star of the barn.

"I want to go to Keeneland," Jeff told his wife when asked about a way to celebrate.

So off they went. They vetted five yearlings at Keeneland September in 2017, hoping to buy one.

Bred in Kentucky by Normandy Farm and part of the Gainesway consignment, Tightly Twisted was one of 65 sons and daughters of Hard Spun in the catalog that year. One went for $900,000, and 15 brought at least $100,000. One turned out to be Grade 1 winner Hard Not to Love. Another, A Thread of Blue, has earned more than $1 million.

None are loved more than Tightly Twisted. Although listed as an RNA, she cost the Bennetts $65,000 as a private sale.

Tightly Twisted has won five races, placed in nine more, and earned $250,305. In addition to the Big Dreyfus, a 1⅛-mile turf stakes, she won the George Rosenberger Memorial at Delaware Park in 2019 (a race the Bennetts won in 1995 with Isobars).

"He thinks he can do it again," Juanita said, of her husband and a return trip to Keeneland booked this year. "Out of those five that year, we couldn't afford any of them except her. We do it all ourselves and try to pick ones we can afford, but it's hard. The last two years, everything was way out of our price range."

In the Big Dreyfus, Tightly Twisted lined up in a six-horse field led by Counterparty Risk (Ire) from the powerhouse barn of trainer Chad Brown and owner Klaravich Stables. A $446,779 yearling purchase at Tattersalls in 2018, she came in with two wins including a Grade 3 and started as the 4-5 favorite at Pimlico. Sailingintothewind took the early advantage and led the field through a first quarter-mile in :24.52 and a half in :47.96. Mendoza put Tightly Twisted on the rail behind the leader and just inside Sister Hanan and No Mo Lady (a Trombetta trainee) as the favorite drafted in fifth.

Still fourth and inside on the final turn, Tightly Twisted filled the bridle and came off the rail spinning into the stretch. She got first run on the favorite, who followed and swung three wide in the stretch but was no match. Tightly Twisted passed Sailingintothewind and, with her right ear cocked backward, held off the favorite by a half-length at 9-1. Mendoza celebrated with a few fist pumps galloping out and everybody met in the winner's circle.

Bennett cried, a little, in the post-race television interview.

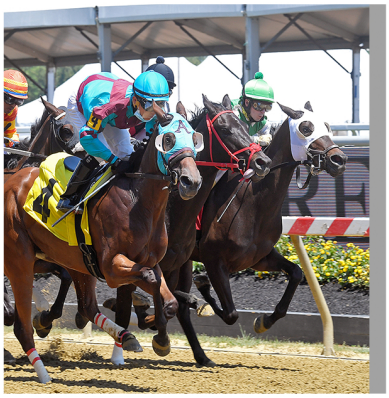
"Maryland was great to us, just welcoming and happy to have us," Bennett said. "It was a great experience. We were tickled to death."

Pimlico, Extended

Thanks to the track renovations at Laurel, Pimlico hosted a long spring/summer meet that ended Aug. 22. Leaders with about 10 days to go in the season covered plenty of bases. Extra Medium led all horses at the meet with four wins from six starts. The 5-year-old won $5,000 claimers April 24 and May 1, then backed into a third win at that level May 22 when Awesome Buzz was disqualified for a medication violation. Claimed by trainer Ricardo D'Angelo and RDB Services out of that race, Extra Medium won for his new connections July 24 . . . Four horses had won three times at the meet, though the endurance record belonged to Zip the Lip, who had made eight starts through Aug. 12 . . . Super C Racing (nine wins) led Joe Besecker (seven) among the owners while trainer Claudio Gonzalez was running away with another championship thanks to 36 wins, double that of Magee and Dale Capuano . . . The jockeys' race was far tighter as Charlie Marquez (41 wins) led J.D. Acosta and Jevian Toledo by four. ✹

Additional reporting by Joe Clancy

2021
MARYLAND JOCKEY CLUB AT LAUREL PARK SEPTEMBER EVENTS



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Miss Distance

Ryerson filly makes lead last in Grade 2 Delaware Handicap

BY JOAN LAWRENCE. PHOTOGRAPHS BY HOOFPRINTS, INC.

If you're walking through Saratoga Race Course's Oklahoma barn area looking for trainer Jim Ryerson, don't check his makeshift tack room/office or expect him to be holding court along the rail. More times than most, on any given morning you'll see him mucking a stall, walking a hot or giving a bath to one of his charges. It's just who he is, and he thinks nothing of pitching in and getting dirty. It's a labor of love for the 68-year-old trainer who would not trade it in for anything else.

Ryerson, who saddled his first runner in 1976 and is closing in on 900 lifetime wins and $30 million in purse earnings, worked for it all. He is a fixture on the East Coast circuit with horses competing in New York, New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware. He resides in Oceanport, N.J., with his wife Sue.

Ryerson took 17 horses to Barn 72 in the historic Oklahoma section of Saratoga, with 15 more at the home base of Belmont Park, and the trainer welcomed the barn's queen back to New York in mid-July as Miss Marissa made a winning trek south to land the Delaware Handicap-G2 at Delaware Park July 10.

The 4-year-old daughter of He's Had Enough and the Arch mare Ardara went to the front for Daniel Centeno and made it last the full 1¼ miles. She led by a length through an opening quarter-mile in :25.15, maintained the same margin after a half in :50.10 and simply kept clicking similar splits until she had her five rivals wondering what happened. Miss Marissa won by 1¼ over Gibberish after 2:04.50, with Queen Nekia third. Heavy favorite Bonny South finished fifth for major connections Juddmonte Farm and trainer Brad Cox.

"I talked to Jimmy before the race and the plan is like we always do which is to try and break well and stay close to the lead," said Centeno. "I knew there was not much speed today, but she broke really, really sharp. After we went to the lead, she started galloping right away. She did it herself, she fired and she just put them away."

Owned by Alfonso Cammarota's Cammarota Racing, Miss Marissa won for the fifth time in 16 starts and pushed her career earnings to $604,690 with the $240,000

Miss Marissa led throughout and repelled all challengers, including Queen Nekia (#2), to win the 84th renewal of the Delaware Handicap for trainer Jim Ryerson.

payday. The Delaware Handicap was her second graded stakes score after taking the George Mitchell Black-Eyed Susan-G2 at Pimlico in October 2020. That victory capped a three-race winning streak that started with allowance wins at Monmouth and Saratoga.

An $11,000 purchase at the 2018 Ocala Breeders Sales Company's yearling sale, Miss Marissa came to Ryerson as a 2-year-old.

"Miss Marissa was fairly precocious, and she made the races fairly quickly," said Ryerson. "She ran very well as a 2-year-old, and we knew early on we wanted to stretch her out even though early on it didn't work out. At 3, we knew at some point we wanted to try again and stretch her out. To me, the old saying, 'Pace makes the Race' fits her. She just flourished when we stretched her two turns, I mean she was just a different horse. The jump she made from her Monmouth Park allowance win to her win in Saratoga was huge. She ran much faster, much more convincing, and really put her in the ball game with the opportunity to run her in the Black-Eyed Susan, and have a little confidence that she could compete at that level and we were lucky enough to win that race."

It's been more of the same as a 4-year-old. After a second in Aqueduct's Ladies Handicap going 1⅛ miles in January, Miss Marissa got a five-month freshening and returned to action in Delaware Park's main Delaware Handicap prep – the 1 1/16-mile Obeah June 9. She stalked the pace, made the lead after 6 furlongs, but couldn't hold off Dream Marie and settled for second.

"We're hoping she can put herself in the ball game to compete in the older mares' division, she had to improve, had to be better," Ryerson said. "I'm not a huge numbers guy, but I think you have to look at her races and you can see she made the jump to be able to compete with a good many of the older mares in her division that run a route of ground."

As talented as she is, Miss Marissa improved in other areas as well.

"She's mentally and physically stronger, and matured a lot," Ryerson said. "Sometimes she's a little too smart. She has natural speed in route races that helps get her into position where she can dictate pace-wise. We thought she ran well at Delaware. We considered a few other races."

And Delaware turned out to be a wise choice.

"We figured she had won a couple of races at a mile-and-an-eighth and not many had done that," Ryerson said. "Who has a better chance of winning a mile-and-quarter race than a horse that has won a couple going a mile-and-an-eighth?"

BANNER DELCAP DAY

As usual, Delaware Handicap Day showcased plenty of other major moments.

■ Undefeated Pennsylvania-bred star Chub Wagon ran her winning streak to eight (six this year) with a win in the Dashing Beauty Stakes for owners/breeders Daniel Lopez and George Chestnut. Trained by Guadalupe Preciado, 1-9 favorite Chub Wagon controlled from the outset and finished 6 furlongs in 1:10.17 for her fourth stakes win. The daughter of Hey Chub pushed her career earnings to $342,800.

■ Bal Mar Equine's Dalika (Ger) showcased her versatility on the turf with a victory in the $150,000 Robert G. Dick Memorial-G3 for trainer Al Stall. The 5-year-old mare dueled with Candy Flower early and took over after a mile to win by a length over Luck Money with Temple City Terror third in the 1⅜-mile stakes. In 2020, Dalika won going 5½ furlongs at Churchill Downs and was second in Belmont Park's 6-furlong License Fee Stakes before stretching out again with a stakes win at Kentucky Downs in September and another at Fair Grounds in December. Dalika came into the Delaware win off a second (behind Temple City Terror) in the 1½-mile Keertana at Churchill Downs. The victory improved the daughter of German stallion Pastorius to 7-for-22 lifetime with $508,463 earned.

■ Trainer Kent Sweezey won the $50,000 Battery Park Stakes with Phat Man, a 7-year-old gelding whose 2021 season opened with starts in Florida, Kentucky and New York. A graded stakes winner in 2020, he finished fifth in back-to-back graded starts before the Delaware win. The son of Munnings started in the back in the Battery Park, but found his best gear late to win the 1 1/16-mile race by 2 lengths over Magic Michael and Deal Driven while pushing his career earnings to $621,609.

NOTES: Through July, Seanow led all Delaware starters with three wins for Charles Lo and co-owner/trainer Jamie Ness. . . Ness was running away with the trainers' race with 28 wins, though the race for second had plenty of drama as Andy Simoff, Gary Contessa and Anthony Pecoraro had nine each. . . Ness' Jagger Inc. stable and Bell Gable Stable were tied atop the owners' standings with nine each . . . Jaime Rodriguez led the jockeys with 47 wins, 17 more than Carol Cedeno with Centeno third at 23. ✹

Stakes results for Delaware Park

7/7 Peach Blossom ($50K). 7½ F. Turf. DE-Bred/Cert. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **RISING BELLA** (dk.b./br.f., 4, Munnings—Striking Bella, by Smart Strike). B-Timothy Rooney (Md.). O-Lowell W. Kinch. T-Steve Klesaris. J-Carol Cedeno. Time: 1:29.26. Margin: 1½. 2nd: **Mosalah**. 3rd: **Buff's in Love**.

7/8 Sussex ($50K). 7½ F. Turf. DE-Bred/Cert. 3&up.

Winner: **TRIFOR GOLD** (b.g., 5, Tritap—Gold Scammer, By Gold Tribute). B/O-Copper Penny Stables (Md.). T-Mark Shuman. J-Angel Suarez. Time: 1:29.19. Margin: nose. 2nd: **Cannon's Roar**. 3rd: **Indian Lake**.

FUELED BY The Mill

7/10 Delaware H-G2 ($400K). 1¼ mi. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **MISS MARISSA** (gr./ro.f., 4, He's Had Enough—Ardara, by Arch). B-Woodford Thoroughbreds (Ky.). O-Cammarota Racing LLC. T-James T. Ryerson. J-Daniel Centeno. Time: 2:04.50. Margin: 1¼. 2nd: **Gibberish**. 3rd: **Queen Nekia**.

7/10 Robert G. Dick Memorial-G3 ($150K). 1⅜ mi. Turf. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **DALIKA (Ger)** (gr./ro.m., 5, Pastorius—Drawn To Run, by Hurricane Run-Ire). B-Gestut Ammerland (Germany). O-Bal Mar Equine LLC. T-Albert M. Stall Jr. J-Miguel Mena. Time: 2:16.35. Margin: 1. 2nd: **Luck Money**. 3rd: **Temple City Terror**.

7/10 Dashing Beauty ($100K). 6 F. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **CHUB WAGON** (b.f., 4, Hey Chub—Takin the Plunge, by Lion Heart). B-Joe-Dan Farm and George Chestnut (Pa.). O-Daniel Lopez and George Chestnut. T-Guadalupe Preciado. J-Jomar Torres. Time: 1:10.17. Margin: 5¼. 2nd: **Anna's Bandit**. 3rd: **Glory Dia**.

7/10 Battery Park ($50K). 1 1/16 mi. 3&up.

Winner: **PHAT MAN** (ch.g., 7, Munnings—Nicole's Dream, by Northern Trend). B-Kim Nardelli and Rodney Nardelli (Ky.). O-Marianne Stribling, Force Five Racing LLC and Two Rivers Racing Stable LLC. T-J. Kent Sweezey. J-Florent Geroux. Time: 1:43.84. Margin: 2. 2nd: **Magic Michael**. 3rd: **Deal Driven**.

Blow Away

Grateful Bred wins turf stakes for Meyers, owner/breeder Keys

BY IV HENDRIX. PHOTOGRAPHS BY HOOFPRINTS, INC.

Grateful Bred glides to victory in the Meadow Stable Stakes at Colonial Downs July 19, to put owner/breeder Gordie Keys (second from left) and trainer Madison Meyers (second from right) in the winner's circle.

As Gordie Keys' Grateful Bred drew clear of the field in the final furlong of the $100,000 Meadow Stable Stakes on Opening Day at Colonial Downs July 19, trainer Madison Meyers pulled her sunglasses down over her eyes.

"I was crying like a baby," Meyers said. "I had to leave my sunglasses on during the interviews afterward."

In his second outing in stakes company, the Maryland-bred son of Great Notion settled into the fourth positon shortly after the break. With 2 furlongs left in the 5½-furlong stakes restricted to Virginia-bred, -sired or -certified runners, jockey Jevian Toledo swung wide to take command at the top of the stretch. Sent off as the 2-1 favorite, Grateful Bred won by 2¼ lengths over Sky's Not Falling with Flank Speed third in 1:02.45.

And his trainer bawled.

"There were a lot of emotions," said Meyers. "We've worked so hard with him, he's such a nice horse and I was excited for him to prove how good he is."

Keys sent his homebred to Meyers as an unraced 3-year-old. Now 5, he won for the fourth time in eight starts and pushed his earnings to $159,765.

"He hadn't been on a racetrack when we got him," Meyers said. "He could be explosive, but his first breeze was impressive and he's always been efficient over the ground."

Grateful Bred broke his maiden in his second start at Laurel Park, showing a preference for the turf. Because he is a Maryland-bred and Virginia-certified horse, Meyers targeted races with program bonuses—including seven starts in Maryland and one in Virginia through Aug. 11. After Grateful Bred handily won an allowance at Pimlico June 19, Meyers looked toward the Meadow Stable Stakes.

"It was a logical next step," she said. "Mr. Keys likes to support both programs, but last year Covid prevented us from running in Virginia."

Grateful Bred, who spends winters turned out at Keys' Upperville, Va., farm, returned to Meyers' Middleburg Training Center stable in April. Meyers and Keys agreed to "start him back late" with plans of aiming for the Maryland Million Turf Sprint (he was fourth in the 2020 race) in October. His victory in the Meadow Stable gave Meyers confidence that he's on the right track.

"Obviously we're thrilled," she said. "Now we'll start working backward from the Maryland Million."

A Lexington, Ky., native, Meyers got hooked on racing from a young age. Her

father was a bloodstock agent and her mother rode for pleasure, so horses were always in the picture. But her parents had one rule: Stay away from racehorses.

"So I went to work for Niall O'Callaghan in Louisville," Meyers said with a laugh. "I'd pull manes, ride the pony–whatever was needed–and one day I walked in and saw my name on the set list."

Meyers became a regular exercise rider for O'Callaghan and later for Dale Romans. In 2011, she went to work for Jimmy Baker as an assistant trainer. While managing Baker's Saratoga string in 2012, she met her now-husband, former champion steeplechase jockey Kieran Norris. After the Saratoga meet, Meyers and Norris moved to Maryland to work for trainer Tom Voss.

After a year with Voss, Norris was offered a job riding for Middleburg, Va., based steeplechase trainer Richard Valentine. Again, the couple moved south. But this time they stayed put and Meyers took out her trainer's license in 2014.

"I got my first horse while Kieran was working for Richard and then another soon after," Meyers said. "We were trucking up and down the road to Penn National with these two horses of our own."

She saddled a handful of runners from 2014-18, before expanding her stable in 2019. Her starts hit the mid 20s in 2019 and she's already passed her 2020 victory total with four thus far. Grateful Bred is her first stakes winner, and only stakes starter.

Breeder Ann Backer offered the couple the chance to break six yearlings for her Middleburg-based Smitten Farm. Norris and Meyers enjoyed working with young horses and opened Ballyerin Racing, which specializes in breaking and pre-training, in 2016. Five years after opening the door to the public, Meyers has 42 horses for owners from throughout the Mid-Atlantic, including two for Keys.

At 88, Keys is a lifelong horseman. After graduating from the University of Maryland, he returned to his home in Olney, Md., to raise corn, soybeans and Black Angus cattle.

"I've owned at least one horse from the time I was 6 years old," Keys said. "I really enjoy breeding–I've bred a lot more horses than I've bought."

With the suburban sprawl encroaching on his Montgomery County, Md., farm–2,500 acres at its peak–Keys left his home of 65 years for Upperville, Va. But the horseman remained involved in his home state, serving as a ringmaster at the Maryland Horse Breeders Association's yearling show in Timonium, Md., for many years.

"I really consider myself a Marylander, but I live in Virginia," Keys said. "All four of my kids graduated from Maryland. I'm very proud of where I'm from."

Keys is a longtime supporter of Maryland-based stallions with his small band of broodmares. After some research and consideration, he decided on Great Notion for his Malibu Moon mare, Malibu Moment.

Keys bought her for $21,000 as a yearling in 2003. Bred in Maryland by Thornmar Farm's Charles and Cynthia McGinnes, she lost all seven starts (though she did manage three seconds). As a broodmare, she's produced six winners–all bred in the region.

"I'd bred another horse by Great Notion, and I liked him, but he was a very big horse and didn't hold up," he said. "So I figured I'd find a smaller mare to breed to Great Notion next time, and that's what I did."

After foaling his mares in Maryland, Keys brings his homebreds back to his Beaver Dam Farm to grow up. There they graze, relax and take in neighborhood sights and sounds, which include Keys' cattle herd and the Piedmont Fox Hounds, who are kenneled across the street. When it came time to find a trainer for Grateful Bred, Keys didn't have to look far.

"I've had a lot of trainers over the years–good and bad," he said. "Madison and Kieran lived on the next farm over and I saw how they kept their horses and ran their stable. They're very conscientious about how they treat their horses."

A hands-on horseman, Keys enjoys watching his horses train in the morning and brings them home when they have time off.

"The training center is about 2 miles from my farm. It's a really nice situation–I

Stakes results for Colonial Downs

7/19 Bert Allen ($100K). 1 1/16 mi. Turf. Reg. VA-Bred/Sired/Certified, 3&up.

Winner: **PASSION PLAY** (b.g., 5, Hold Me Back—Stylish Affair, by Not For Love). B-Mr. and Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin III (Va.). O-Reiley McDonald. T-Mary E. Eppler. J-Horacio Karamanos. Time: 1:41.73. Margin: 2. 2nd: **Forloveofcountry**. 3rd: **Point of Grace**.

7/19 Meadow Stable ($100K). 5½ F. Turf. Reg. VA-Bred/Sired/Certified, 3&up.

Winner: **GRATEFUL BRED** (dk.b./br.g., 5, Great Notion—Malibu Moment, by Malibu Moon). B/O-Gordon C. Keys (Md.). T-Madison F. Meyers. J-Jevian Toledo. Time: 1:02.45. Margin: 2¼. 2nd: **Sky's Not Falling**. 3rd: **Flank Speed**.

7/19 M. Tyson Gilpin ($100K). 5½ F. Turf. Reg. VA-Bred/Sired/Certified, 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **PUPPYMONKEYBABY** (dk.b./br.f., 3, Hit It a Bomb—Officer's Holiday, by Officer). B-Spendthrift Farm LLC (Ky.). O-Big Lick Farm. T-Sarah Nagle. J-Jevian Toledo. Time: 1:02.81. Margin: ¾. 2nd: **Envied**. 3rd: **Door Buster**.

7/19 Nellie Mae Cox ($100K). 1 mi. Turf. Reg. VA-Bred/Sired/Certified, 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **TASTING THE STARS** (b.m., 5, Bodemeister—Pink Champagne, by Awesome Again). B-Audley Farm Equine (Va.). O-Newtown Anner Stud Farm. T-John C. Kimmel. J-Feargal Lynch. Time: 1:35.40. Margin: 2¼. 2nd: **Fionnbharr**. 3rd: **Urban Fairytale**.

7/26 Buckland ($150K). 1⅛ mi. Turf. 3&up.

Winner: **EONS** (ch.h., 5, Giant's Causeway—Golden Antigua, by Hansel). B-Camas Park Stud (Ky.). O-Mark B. Grier. T-Arnaud Delacour. J-Mychel J. Sanchez. Time: 1:48.14 (ncr). Margin: head. 2nd: **Kentucky Ghost**. 3rd: **Pixelate**.

7/26 Andy Guest ($100K). 5½ F. Turf. 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **VIOLENZA** (dk.b./br.f., 4, Violence—South Street Gal, by Street Sense). B-Randy Bloch et al (Ky.). O-Randall L. Bloch, Six Column Stables, John Seiler, David Hall and David Kirk. T-Ian R. Wilkes. J-Chris Landeros. Time: 1:02.74. Margin: neck. 2nd: **Mucha Mezquina**. 3rd: **Beantown Baby**.

8/2 Da Hoss ($100K). 5½ F. Turf. 3&up.

Winner: **JUST MIGHT** (ch.g., 5, Justin Phillip—Dynamite Babe, by Dynameaux). B/O-Griffon Farms and Michelle Lovell (Ky.). T-Michelle Lovell. J-Colby J. Hernandez. Time: 1:01.77. Margin: ½. 2nd: **Francatelli**. 3rd: **Holiday Stone**.

8/2 Hickory Tree ($100K). 5 F. Turf. Reg. VA-Bred/Sired/Certified 2YO.

Winner: **LOCAL MOTIVE** (b.g., Divining Rod—Wild for Love, by Not For Love). B-Wasabi Ventures Stables, Greenspring Mares and Bowman and Higgins Stable (Md.). O-Bird Mobberley. T-John E. Salzman Jr. J-J.D. Acosta. Time: :57.52. Margin: ½. 2nd: **Roll Dem Bones**. 3rd: **Wow Whata Summer**.

8/2 Keswick ($100K). 5 F. Turf. Reg. VA-Bred/Sired/Certified 2YO F.

Winner: **CAVALIER CUPID** (dk.b./br.f., Quality Road—El Vedado, by Big Brown). B/O-Big Lick Farm (Md.). T-Sarah Nagle. J-Horacio Karamanos. Time: :56.52. Margin: 1. 2nd: **Rambert**. 3rd: **Determined Truth**.

can go over there and see the horses work," Keys said. "It makes it really pleasant for me. I couldn't be any happier."

Off the stakes win, Keys and Meyers had options with their horse–though the goal remains the Maryland Million. But for now, in the words of the Grateful Dead's hit song "Truckin," the gelding will take some time to "hang it up and see what tomorrow brings."

"My wife named the horse," Keys said. "She's a Grateful Dead fan."

But for Keys, the pleasure of watching a homebred thrive is enough to make him grateful.

"I don't think we know how good he is yet to tell you the truth," Keys said. "I've spent my life around horses, and this is the best one I've had."

Bred in Virginia by Audley Farm, Tasting the Stars stays well clear in the Nellie Mae Cox Stakes.

BANNER START

Colonial set a record on Opening Day with handle of $2.66 million, thanks in part to four Virginia-restricted turf stakes and the return of fans to the New Kent track in its third year under new ownership (after a Covid-19 outbreak among the jockeys canceled most of the 2020 schedule). Attendance was estimated at 2,500 and they were treated to full fields and quality racing.

Tasting the Stars made the long trek from Belmont Park to win the $100,000 Nellie Mae Cox Stakes going a mile. Trained by John Kimmel for Newtown Anner Stud Farm, the 5-year-old mare came from off the pace and outran Fionnbharr late to win by 2¼ lengths. Bred in Virginia by Audley Farm, the daughter of Bodemeister and the Awesome Again mare Pink Champagne was purchased by her owner at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's fall yearling sale in 2017 for $140,000. While with trainer Mike Stidham, she won the first three starts of her career in 2019, including a stakes at Monmouth Park, and added the Brookmeade at Laurel last fall. The Cox was her 2021 debut, and her fifth win from seven starts (now eight after a fourth in the Van Clief Stakes at Colonial Aug. 9).

Colonial's all-time leading jockey Horacio Karamanos reached the winner's circle three times opening day, including a gate-to-wire victory atop Reiley McDonald's Passion Play in the 1⅛ miles Bert Allen Stakes. The 5-year-old Hold Me Back gelding crossed 2 lengths ahead of Forloveofcountry, who had a three-race win streak snapped. Trained by Mary Eppler, the winner broke his maiden two years ago at Colonial, and pushed his bankroll to $197,947.

Bred in Virginia by Mr. and Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin III, Passion Play won once in 14 starts for trainer Dallas Stewart through early 2020 and picked up his second in six tries for Eppler. Produced from the Not For Love mare Stylish Affair, the winner is a full-brother to stakes winner Drop Dead Red and stakes-placed eight-time winner Hold Me Black.

"I'm so happy to come here and win this much," said Karamanos, who was battling Joe Rocco Jr. atop the early leaderboard. "This is like my home. I broke records here and feel so happy when I'm back at Colonial Downs."

■ A week after the Opening Day festivities, the track scheduled three open stakes on its turf course with Violenza winning the Andy Guest for trainer Ian Wilkes and Eons landing the Buckland for Arnaud Delacour. The Da Hoss Stakes and another race were canceled due to heavy storms in the area.

Trained for Mark Grier at Fair Hill Training Center in Maryland, Eons got up in the final stride to win the Buckland, a 1⅛-mile race worth $150,000 and set a course record 1:48.14 in the process. Bred in Kentucky by Camas Park Stud, the son of Giant's Causeway picked up his fifth lifetime victory–and third in a stakes–while halting a 10-race losing streak. The chestnut won four in a row as a 3-year-old in 2019, capped by Delaware Park's Kent-G3, before the skid which included two seconds and a third.

At Colonial, Eons rated last of seven behind early leader Mr Dumas, then rallied six wide to score by a head over Kentucky Ghost with favorite Pixelate third.

Violenza followed a similar strategy to win the Andy Guest, a 5½-furlong test for fillies and mares, as she prevailed by a neck over Mucha Mezquina in a three-way photo that also included Beantown Baby.

■ Colonial added the Da Hoss to the Aug. 2 card and Just Might, owned and bred by Griffon Farms and Michelle Lovell and trained by Lovell, got the win. The Justin Phillip gelding came into the race off a victory in the Mighty Beau Stakes at Churchill Downs in June and won for the sixth time.

Cavalier Cupid won her second race of the meet when she knocked off five foes in the Keswick Stakes for 2-year-old fillies. Bred in Maryland by owner Big Lick Farm and trained by Sarah Nagle, the daughter of Quality Road scored by a length in the 5-furlong turf stakes after breaking her maiden on Opening Day at Colonial. The dark bay filly started her career with a second at Belterra Park in June.

One race after the Keswick, 2-year-old colts and geldings squared off at the same 5-furlong distance and Local Motive landed the first stakes win for Maryland sire Divining Rod with a half-length tally for owner Bird Mobberley and trainer John Salzman Jr. in the Hickory Tree. Prepped at Timonium in June and July, thanks to Laurel Park's closure, Local Motive won his debut going 6 furlongs on the dirt at Pimlico in late July and had no problem shortening up and moving to turf nine days later. The winner was bred by Wasabi Ventures Stables, Greenspring Mares and Bowman and Higgins Stable.

Notes: It was early, but the leaderboard at Colonial was competitive in all directions through Aug. 12. Larry Johnson led the owners with four wins, followed by Big Lick Farm, David Ross' stable DARRS Inc. and GOP Racing Stable with three apiece . . . Four trainers had won four each–Mike Trombetta, Michelle Lovell, Michael Tomlinson and Ferris Allen. . . Rocco's 12 wins led the jockeys with Karamanos two back in second. ✹

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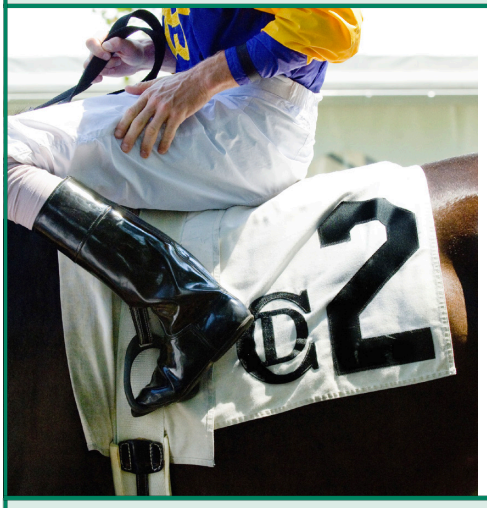

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Reaping Rewards

Brown, McClay unveil good one in 3-year-old filly Just One Time

BY PAUL HALLORAN. PHOTOGRAPHS BY COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Don Brown and Tom McClay have been running horses together since 2008, but took their partnership to a new level when they bought Warrior's Reward as a stallion in 2018. They started breeding to him in 2019 and they have high hopes for the 30 yearlings they own with some minority partners.

In the meantime, their Warriors Reward LLC ownership group has a promising prospect in 3-year-old filly Just One Time, a Pennsylvania-bred who has proven to be a handful—in the starting gate as well as on the racetrack.

Brown and McClay paid $45,000 at the Keeneland November 2017 breeding stock sale for Virginia-bred broodmare Ida Clark, in foal to 2016 Breeders' Cup Juvenile-G1 runner-up Not This Time. The foal dropped on April 1, 2018.

Unraced as a 2-year-old, Just One Time was entered in an open maiden special weight at Penn National Feb. 12. When the horse in the next stall reared and made contact with her, Just One Time flipped out—figuratively and literally—and had to be scratched. It was especially disappointing for trainer Mike Salvaggio Jr., who had spent extra time with her at the gate in the morning and had her wearing a weighted blanket to prevent her from feeling the side of the gate when being put in the stall.

"We had to be patient with her," said Salvaggio, who has won more than 1,200 races in a 41-year career. "The exercise rider and gate crew did a good job."

It took two months and five workouts for Salvaggio to get Just One Time back to the races. She went to the post as the second choice in a maiden special for state-breds May 14 and flipped at the gate again. This time, however, she showed off her athletic ability and got right back on her feet. The veterinarian cleared her to run and she delivered a workmanlike, if not overly impressive, performance that was good enough to win by 1¾ lengths and prompt her connections to aim higher.

"She hit the gate when she broke, rushed up, cut off a horse on the backstretch, drifted out a little, bullied her way through and drew off," McClay said. "That race didn't tell me much, but the trainer said she was very talented and Donny Brown suggested we run in the stakes at Presque Isle. I was slightly against it."

They decided to run in the Malvern Rose Stakes July 19, a 6½-furlong race on the Tapeta for 3-year-old Pennsylvania-bred fillies. Ridden again by Angel Rodriguez, Just One Time behaved at the gate, was third early on, split horses on the turn and took the lead at the top of the stretch before drawing off to win by 4¼ lengths. This time, she was impressive.

"Angel took his time until he saw an opening. He asked her to go and she went," Brown said. "After the race, he said, 'Now I know why everybody is so high on her.'"

Having already won sprinting on dirt and synthetic, Just One Time is likely to

Pennsylvania-bred Just One Time remained a perfect 2-for-2 when taking the Malvern Rose Stakes for owner/breeders Don Brown and Tom McClay.

get a chance on the turf at some point. She took another crack at Presque Isle in the Lake Erie Stakes Aug. 16 and finished seventh after getting in a pace battle.

Just One Time found herself in a three-way battle for the lead between Lady Edith on the rail and Night Cap on the outside through fractions of :21.60 and :43.96. The pace proved too much for all of them as favorite Bullseye Beauty, ridden by James Graham—48 hours removed from pulling a major upset in the Mr. D Stakes (Arlington Million)—roared down the stretch to win the $75,000 stakes.

"With her breeding, I don't think the surface is going to matter," said Salvaggio, who had another stakes at Presque Isle penciled in for mid-August and then even bigger things.

"I think this horse is really talented," said McClay, introduced to racing in the late 1960s as a college student in Boston, when his roommate's father took them to Suffolk Downs. After graduating from the Wentworth Institute of Technology, he worked for Honeywell in Harrisburg, Pa., and eventually started his own business.

"As soon as I had some money, I bought some horses," he said of his foray into ownership in the mid-1980s. "It's my only hobby. I'm not going to say I've made money; I'm sure I've lost money, but I don't care. I love the sport."

Brown started going to Gulfstream Park and Hialeah as a senior in high school. He and his father, Donald, bought a horse together 30 years ago and he has been in the game ever since. "I have thoroughly enjoyed it," he said.

He and McClay hope there are plenty of happy days, perhaps as a result of buying Warrior's Reward from Spendthrift and standing him at WynOaks Farm in Delta, Pa., run by Chip and Barbara Wheeler.

"We were considering buying a stallion and Spendthrift was looking to move some horses," Brown said. "When we found out he was available, we jumped right on it. We heard about it in the morning and we bought him by lunch time."

"We had 50 mares when we bought him," McClay said of the $175,000 purchase in November 2018. "We couldn't afford $20,000 stud fees for 50 broodmares, so we decided to buy a stallion."

By Medaglia d'Oro out of the Seeking the Gold mare For All You Do, Warrior's Reward earned $565,716 in 17 starts, including a second in the Jim Dandy-G2 in 2009, a win in the Carter-G1 and a fifth in the Breeders' Cup Sprint-G1 in 2010.

The Ian Wilkes trainee has been a productive stallion, whose progeny include graded stakes winners Warrior's Club, Axelrod and Night Ops and Grade 1-placed Tencendur. In 2020, he was the leading Pennsylvania sire by earnings and winners, with his progeny winning stakes races at eight tracks, including Saratoga and Del Mar. At one point Spendthrift was shuttling him to Australia, but he has found a home at WynOaks, where he stands for $5,000.

"I think his versatility makes him a perfect fit for Pennsylvania," said Brown, who lives in Mechanicsburg and owns the popular Black N Bleu restaurant. "He produces dirt horses, turf horses, good 2-year-olds."

In the three years they have owned him, Warrior's Reward has covered 275 mares. Brown and McClay shoot to keep about 25-30 foals, and have brought in a group of minority partners under a unique arrangement. The partners do not pay for the horses, of which they collectively own approximately 50 percent, with Brown and McClay holding the other 50. The minority partners cover the first 20 percent of all expenses and agree that the horses will run in Pennsylvania, where the program features bonuses as high as 50 percent for breeders who also own the stallion.

"Without a doubt, Pennsylvania has the best state-bred racing program in the country," Brown said. "It can be successful and rewarding if you stay with it."

Warriors Reward LLC is in it for the long haul.

"We're going to do this every year and we will either succeed or fail," McClay said. "We could just sell the yearlings, but we wanted to stay involved."

Presque Passes

Jockey Pablo Morales got off to a hot start with 44 wins through mid-August, twice as many as Antonio Gallardo. Morales was winning at a 34-percent clip . . . Trainer Tim Hamm was similarly dominant, with 17 wins in his first 36 starts (a 47 percent win ratio) . . . Owner Carl Hess Jr.'s horses, trained by Gerald E. Brooks, went 10-5-4 in their first 35 starts with more than $131,000 in earnings . . . Gallardo brought home Arzak in the Tom Ridge Stakes Aug. 2. Trained by Mike Trombetta, the Not This Time colt out of the Tapit mare Delightful Melody closed from fifth and got up in the final stride to beat Smokin' Jay. Arzak and Smokin' Jay had run third and fifth, respectively, in the My Frenchman Stakes at Monmouth July 11, where 2½ lengths separated the top six runners. ✹

Darcy Mae

Wait for It

Stakes results for Presque Isle Downs

7/19 Malvern Rose ($100K). 6½ F. Reg. PA-Bred 3YO F.

Winner: **JUST ONE TIME** (ch.f., Not This Time—Ida Clark, by Speightstown). B/O-Warrior's Reward LLC (Pa.). T-Michael W. Salvaggio Jr. J-Angel R. Rodriguez. Time: 1:17.42. Margin: 4¼. 2nd: **Maldives Model**. 3rd: **Tactical Pajamas**.

7/26 Princess of Sylmar ($100K). 1 mi. 70 yds. Reg. PA-Bred, 3&up, F&M.

Winner: **DARCY MAE** (b.m., 7, K One King—Krista's Quik Chic, by Forestry). B-Gunpowder Farms LLC (Pa.). O/T-Katy Cheeks. J-Pablo Morales. Time: 1:42.46. Margin: 1¾. 2nd: **Redeem My Heart**. 3rd: **Wildcat Cartridge**.

7/27 Hard Spun ($100K). 1 mi. 70 yds. Reg. PA-Bred, 3&up.

Winner: **WAIT FOR IT** (b.g., 6, Uptowncharlybrown—Kimberley Diamond, by Posse). B-Fantasy Lane Stable (Pa.). O-Uptowncharlybrown Stud. T-Edward J. Coletti Jr. J-Anthony Y. Nunez. Time: 1:40.86. Margin: 1. 2nd: **Viski Jones**. 3rd: **Ravens Delight**.

8/2 Tom Ridge ($75K). 6 F. 3YO.

Winner: **ARZAK** (ch.c., Not This Time—Delightful Melody, by Tapit). B-John C. Oxley (Ky.). O-Sonata Stable. T-Michael J. Trombetta. J-Antonio A. Gallardo. Time: 1:10.08. Margin: nose. 2nd: **Smokin' Jay**. 3rd: **Nicky Two Shoes**.

Graduation Day

Former Sheppard assistant Brion wins Grade 1 with Baltimore Bucko

BY JOE CLANCY. PHOTOGRAPHS BY TOD MARKS

For the 11 years she worked for Hall of Fame trainer Jonathan Sheppard, Keri Brion got horses ready for jump races at Saratoga. On cold Pennsylvania mornings jogging roads. . . on spring days in Camden, S.C. . . on van rides to Nashville for the Iroquois Steeplechase. . . on long, tempo-increasing gallops in the 100-acre field . . . all of it at some point was done to get horses to Saratoga.

And this summer, Brion brought her own horses to Saratoga. In her first season as a full-time trainer, she saddled the 1-2 finishers in the Grade 1 A.P. Smithwick Memorial July 22–taking down $124,500 of the $150,000 purse with winner Baltimore Bucko (GB), runner-up French Light (Fr) and Galway Kid (Ire) in fifth.

Owned by Buttonwod Farm, Baltimore Bucko galloped to an easy lead for jockey Tom Garner and made it last–winning by 5¾ lengths as the 3-1 favorite. Imported from Ireland, the winner won for the third time in 10 starts (all over jumps) and collected his first stakes win in 3:56.49 for 2 1/16 miles over a good turf course. French Light, also imported via Ireland, was 2¾ lengths clear of Gibralfaro (Ire) in third.

The moment wasn't lost on Brion, who won Smithwicks with Sheppard-trained Divine Fortune in 2011 and Winston C (Ire) in 2019 and paused a post-race inter-

Baltimore Bucko controls the pace in the A.P. Smithwick. He led throughout and won by 5¾ lengths.

view to simply say, "Wow," three separate times.

"It's my first runner at Saratoga, it's the A.P. Smithwick," she said. "Working for Jonathan, Saratoga is what we got ready for. Everyone wants to win a race at Saratoga. To win the A.P. Smithwick, I don't know if it's hit me. I was 1-2 in the A.P. Smithwick, holy hell. I like to think he'd be proud."

Sheppard retired at the end of 2020, a Covid-shortened National Steeplechase Association season in which he won 20 races and claimed his record 26th championship. Brion steered the ship last year, and picked up many of the horses and owners for 2021, though she spent the early part of the year in Ireland with a small string and opened her business for real at Fair Hill Training Center in Maryland when she returned.

She saddled three of the six starters in the Smithwick, Saratoga's first jump race after the Jonathan Kiser novice hurdle stakes was rained out a day earlier. Baltimore Bucko won two of four starts last year, and made four winter starts in Ireland–finishing third twice and falling in his last start there in March. After a short break, the 5-year-old Sholokhov (Ire) gelding finished a fast-closing second (beaten a head) after being 11th of 12 early at Nashville in late June. Brion and Garner opted for the opposite tactics Thursday, taking control of a paceless race from the beginning.

"My thought was that he just gallops and my other two kind of want something to run at," said Brion of pre-race strategy. "Tom's a very good rider and I just said, 'Why don't you make it?' and if someone really wants to go, tuck in. Otherwise just go.' To be fair, they gave him the race a bit. He just gallops, he just goes that speed. Being in Ireland only made his stamina more. It probably took a bit of his speed out of him, but his stamina is probably better than it's ever been."

Garner loved every minute of it, and paid credit to his horse.

"I was taking pulls all the way around to fill his lungs up, I took a pull about five times," he said. "I kicked a lot sooner than I hoped and I'm glad I did because I think French Light might have pipped me. He's a nice horse, he did all the hard work, I was just a passenger, I just had to help him out because he was getting a bit lonely on the front."

In his first run since April, French Light rated deep in the field, made up some ground to get close by the stretch but couldn't reel in the winner.

"You've got to remember French Light hasn't run since Ireland and Bucko had the run [at the Iroquois]," said Brion. "I knew French Light would come, but I had a feeling jumping the second-last that it would be too much to do. Bucko wasn't going to come back to him."

Brion saw Baltimore Bucko, then an unraced 3-year-old, during a winter visit to James Doyle's Baltimore Stable in Ireland and urged owner Rod Moorhead to make the purchase even if Doyle wasn't so sure.

"He didn't want to sell him," Brion said of Doyle, who runs the steeplechase training yard. "He was like, 'He hasn't done enough, I don't know if he's that good.' I thought he was that good. I called Rod and said, 'I really want you to buy him.' He's a beautiful horse and does everything right."

Like deliver a big moment in Saratoga.

"It's Saratoga. I have a flat runner in a maiden race next weekend and that would be something else too, to win a flat race up here, but it's the Smithwick and the Turf Writers," said Brion. "This is the place. People see it. My phone in my pocket is going a million miles an hour. It feels like everyone in Ireland just watched that race."

Bodes Well leads a crowd over an early fence in the Jonathan Kiser, which he won when The Mean Queen ducked in and lost her jockey in the final stages.

Young, Bodes Well inherit Kiser

While working for veterinarian Dr. Mark Cheney years ago, Leslie Young would frequently spot steeplechase prospects among the flat barns at racetracks and farms.

"Oooh, that would make a jumper," was her frequent response to some horses. Somehow, trainer Darrin Miller remembered and called Young to look at More Fascination–a Dynaformer gelding–in 2007. Miller said owners Bonnie and Tommy Hamilton's Silverton Hill Farm would stay in, if Young would take the horse to train and a few months later Young had a trainer's license and her first winner when the 4-year-old won a maiden hurdle at Saratoga Open House.

"He was our first runner, and the Hamiltons have been clients ever since," said Young, who teamed up with Silverton Hill for an unlikely win in the $75,000 Jonathan Kiser novice hurdle stakes with Bodes Well (Ire) July 28. A beaten but comfortable second in deep stretch, Bodes Well wound up the winner when The Mean Queen (Ire) ducked in and lost jockey Tom Garner inside the sixteenth pole. The 1-2 favorite went from sure-thing winner to tough-luck loser in one step to her right after lugging to her left a few strides earlier.

Bodes Well came into the race with 21 prior jump starts, tops in the field of seven in the restricted stakes, and won for the first time since November 2019. He set the pace for jockey Gerard Galligan, yielded to the previously unbeaten The Mean Queen on the final turn and was 6½ lengths down when disaster–or good fortune depending on your side of the equation–struck. Bodes Well wound up a 4½-length winner over City Dreamer (Ire), who edged Arch My Boy (GB) by a nose with The Happy Giant another nose back in fourth.

Young was proud of her horse, who paid $52 as the longest shot on the board, but gutted for Garner.

"Tom is not only a jockey for us, but he works for us and he's a friend," she said. "I know that is just a killer. His horse was going well. She went to duck in, what can you do? I feel for him and the connections, but I'm happy and really proud of my horse. He ran a good race. He wasn't going to catch her, but he ran really well."

The son of Rock of Gibraltar (Ire) won a maiden flat race and a maiden hurdle race in England for trainer Warren Greatrex before being imported in 2019. He won a handicap hurdle that summer, and added another in November. Last year, a four-start campaign came up empty but included a third (beaten 2 lengths by hurdle star Snap Decision while ridden by Garner) in the Kiser.

■ A week after getting a stakes win because of another horse's misfortune, the Young barn did it again when Silver Crescent (GB) won a $65,000 allowance hurdle when likely winner Withoutdestination (GB) went inside cones in deep stretch while making a big rally for jockey Eddie Keating.

Owned by Tom and Roxanne Collins' Ballybristol Farm, Silver Crescent won his second in a row after graduating the maiden ranks at Tryon, N.C. in June—scoring by 2¼ lengths over Keri's Find (Ire) with the Young-trained Perfect Tapatino (Fr) third. Galligan picked up his second riding win of the meet.

Silver Crescent rated in the back early, shadowed Keri's Find and Perfect Tapatino into the final turn, split horses in the upper stretch and took the lead only to come under late pressure from Withoutdestination inside the final furlong. Keating went inside, too far inside, and his horse stepped to the left of cones placed in the stretch to delineate the steeplechase course from the flat course. Silver Crescent had plenty left for everybody else.

Bred by Juddmonte Farm, the gray son of Champs Elysees (GB) made eight starts on the flat in England before Young spent $29,353 at the Tattersalls fall horses in training sale in 2018. He made his jump debut the next summer, finishing third at Monmouth Park and second at Colonial Downs (beaten a nose) before going to the sidelines with a tendon injury. He missed 2020 entirely, and returned at Camden in May. A late-running second there, he ousted next-out winner Princeville (NZ) by 6¾ lengths at Tryon and aimed for Saratoga.

The tendon injury was, in the grand scheme of things, minor and Young credited the layoff time with helping produce a better horse.

"I asked a couple of the old-timers like Jonathan Sheppard and Tom Voss over the years and they said you can do PRP and the other treatments, but they said time is the thing," Young said of tendon injuries. "All the therapies and programs require time off. Look at the horses we retire, they keep foxhunting for 15 years and they jump and run through stuff we wouldn't even train on. The other stuff might help, but it only confuses you to make you think you can come back sooner. It's time that really does it."

Silver Crescent spent time with Nicky Manfredi near Young's base in Pennsylvania, and came back into work over the winter.

"We send a lot of ours to Nicky for turnout," said the trainer, who has since started renting Sheppard's old facility which has more room. "I don't or I didn't have the turnout facilities and I'd have him in a stall more than I might want to. They have a stall there, but she has better turnout and they get to be horses. He is classy. It's such a bummer that he got hurt, but he's making up for it. The Collinses have been patient with him, and let me do the right thing."

Jumping Around

■ Virginia's Colonial Downs planned seven days of jump racing as part of its summer meet through August. The early sessions included a stakes win by owner/trainer Ted Gregory's Screen Image in the $75,000 Randy Rouse Memorial for fillies and mares. Ridden by Keating, the 6-year-old mare won for the second time in four starts over hurdles. The $75,000 yearling purchase lost eight starts on the flat in 2017, 2018 and 2020. She graduated at first asking over hurdles in October 2020 and ran twice—a third and a fifth—before the Rouse. The daughter of Giant's Causeway more than doubled her career earnings to $78,045. Other Colonial winners included maiden victors Ritzy A. P., Forgiving, Booby Trap, West Newton (GB) and Glencorrib Sky (Ire). Junonia and Boss Man won handicaps.

■ The fall schedule includes 11 stops, starting at Belmont Park Sept. 16 and continuing at Shawan Downs (Sept. 25), five October meets highlighted by Far Hills (Oct. 16) and the International Gold Cup a week later. The final four stops come at Montpelier and Callaway Gardens Nov. 6, the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup Nov. 7 and Charleston, S.C., Nov. 14. ■

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Madefromlucky has knockout first winner

Epic Luck made a memorable 2-year-old debut, as the son of Madefromlucky galloped home by 10¾ lengths at Delaware Park July 28. Leading throughout the 1-mile maiden race, he was never threatened and drew off under little urging.

Trained by Lynn Ashby, who co-bred the bay gelding with Bill Gotwals, Epic Luck is co-owned by Gotwals and Mark Ashby. Out of A Dicey Dame (by Colonel John), the Pennsylvania-bred is the first winner for Northview Stallion Station's freshman sire Madefromlucky.

Syndicate-owned Madefromlucky has 36 foals in his first crop. The 9-year-old chestnut, by champion and champion sire Lookin At Lucky out of a full-sister to three-time leading sire Tapit, retired a millionaire after winning six of 24 starts, four stakes, including the West Virginia Derby-G2, Peter Pan-G2 and Greenwood Cup-G3. Among his eight stakes-placings was a second behind American Pharoah in the Grade 2 Rebel at Oaklawn Park. Madefromlucky retired having won or placed 16 times while earning $1,351,500.

Out of the Pulpit mare Home From Oz, Madefromlucky is a half-brother to A Shin Gold, a stakes-placed earner of $805,785 in Japan. His second dam, stakes winner Tap Your Heels, is a half-sister to champion sprinter and leading sire Rubiano. The family also includes Belmont Stakes winner, champion and Grade 1 sire Summer Bird, major sire Relaunch and successful sire Glitterman.

Madefromlucky stood the 2021 season in Chesapeake City, Md., for $5,000 live foal, payable when the foal stands and nurses.

Top Mid-Atlantic sires of 2021

Based on 2021 earnings through August 15

(D-deceased; R-retired)

General earnings

Sire	rnrs	wnrs	earnings
Wicked Strong (Pa)	154	66	$2,552,384
Jump Start (Pa-D)	111	40	2,059,429
Great Notion (Md)	79	34	1,730,824
Warrior's Reward (Pa)	120	55	1,587,935
Fiber Sonde (WV)	80	40	1,540,062
Golden Lad (Md)	64	33	1,519,880
El Padrino (Pa-D)	71	28	1,514,076
Poseidon's Warrior (Pa)	70	28	1,364,405
Windsor Castle (WV-D)	73	40	1,322,152
Bandbox (Md-D)	52	24	1,269,787

2-year-old earnings

Sire	strs	wnrs	earnings
†Divining Rod (Md)	11	4	$216,600
Wicked Strong (Pa)	11	3	116,005
Poseidon's Warrior (Pa)	7	4	81,763
Great Notion (Md)	7	2	77,845
Mosler (Md)	6	2	69,151

† Freshman sire

Divining Rod gets first stakes winner

In less than a month, Country Life Farm stallion Divining Rod went from getting his first winner, to four winners and taking the top spot among freshmen sires in the region, to his first stakes winner. The latter came when his son Local Motive won the $100,000 Hickory Tree Stakes at Colonial Downs Aug. 2.

Bred by Wasabi Ventures Stables, Greenspring Mares and Bowman and Higgins Stable out of Maryland Million Distaff Starter Handicap winner Wild for Love (by Not For Love), Local Motive races for Bird Mobberley and is trained by John Salzman Jr. Posting bullets at Timonium while Laurel's track was being renovated, Local Motive made his debut nine days earlier at Pimlico and drew off to win by 4¼ lengths going 6 furlongs on the main track.

Switched to the turf and sent 5 furlongs in the Hickory Tree, the bay gelding raced just off the early pace through a quarter in :22.28 and a half in :45.90, and was all business turning for home to record his second win in less than two weeks. He scored by a half-length in :57.52.

With four winners from 11 starters and progeny earnings just over $215,000, Divining Rod ranks 14th on the national first-crop sires list (through Aug. 15).

Divining Rod is a classic-placed son of Tapit standing at Country Life Farm in Bel Air, Md. His first winner, Carnaval Conquest, led throughout at Fanduel Sportsbook And Horse Racing (Fairmount Park) in Illinois July 6. His other two winners in July, Mr. Mox and Petition Prayer, captured maiden special weights at Pimlico.

Divining Rod, from the family of champion and two-time leading sire Kitten's Joy, has 68 registered foals in his first crop. Divining Rod is out of the Kitten's Joy's Grade 1-winning half-sister Precious Kitten, also the dam of graded winner Jehozacat. Others in the family include stakes winner Justenuffheart, dam of Eclipse champion 2-year-old filly and Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies-G1 winner Dreaming of Anna and graded stakes winners and sires Lewis Michael and Justenuffhumor, as well as Grade 1 winner and millionaire Down the Aisle.

Divining Rod won first time out at 2, and won or placed in his first six starts at 3, five graded stakes. He captured Keeneland's Lexington Stakes-G3 that spring and finished third behind Triple Crown winner American Pharoah in the Preakness-G1.

At 4, Divining Rod finished first or second in all four starts, and was beaten a head when second in the Grade 1 Cigar Mile. At 5, he ran 7 furlongs in 1:22.07 when winning the Polynesian Stakes. He retired after winning or placing in 14 of 17 starts while earning $882,604.

The 9-year-old dark bay stood the 2021 season at Country Life for $5,000 live foal.

COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Local Motive won the Hickory Tree at Colonial Down to become the first stakes winner for Divining Rod, the region's current leading 2-year-old sire.

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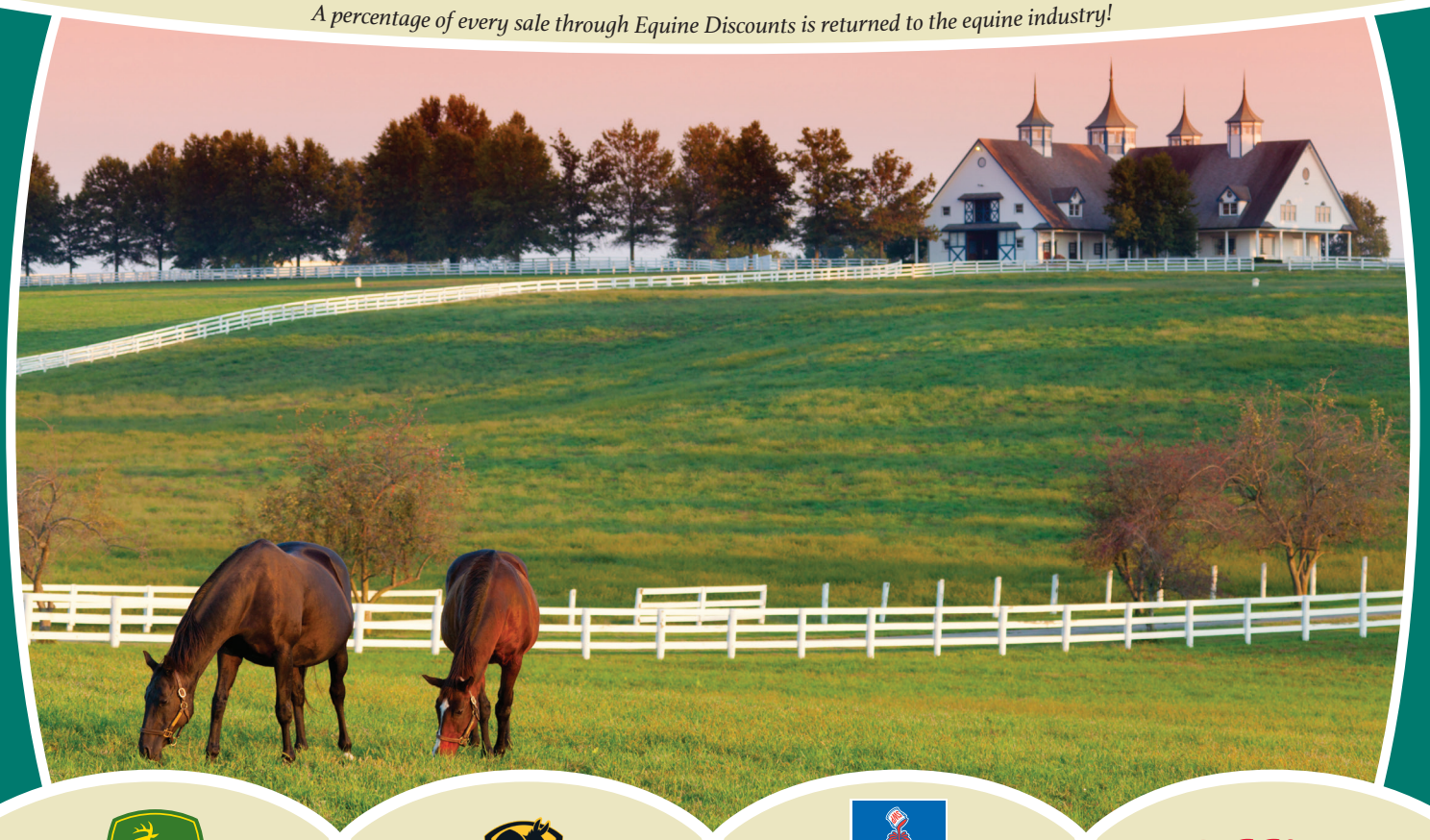

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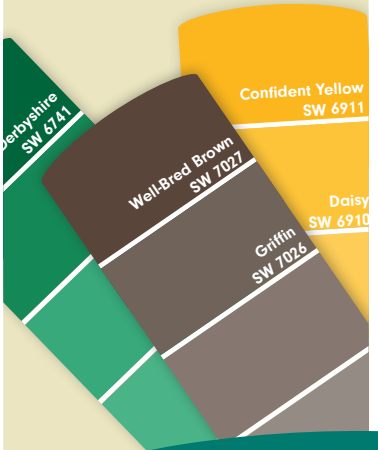

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Street Sense filly continues Chanceland yearling show legacy

By Sara Gordon

Chanceland Farm manager Casey Randall shows the winning Street Sense—Belterra filly, who was crowned champion for owner Katy Voss.

Pushed back to Aug. 1 in order to accommodate the Timonium Fairgrounds commitment to serve as one of the state's mass Covid-19 vaccination sites through mid-summer, the Maryland Horse Breeders Association's 87th annual yearling show traded its typical blazing heat for cool, mildly rainy weather as a quality group of 87 yearlings showed before judge Gary Contessa.

Just as the rain dispersed and gray clouds gave way to late afternoon sunshine, Katy Voss' Street Sense filly was crowned grand champion. The "very pretty" bay filly, as noted by Contessa, won Class IV (fillies by out-of-state sires). She was bred by the late Bob Manfuso of Chanceland Farm.

"We all know that on the horse, the engine is in the rear, and she's got like a 400-horsepower engine in that rear end," said Contessa. "The colts looked great, the [reserve champion] filly looked great, but she was just the most powerful filly. She was classy,

The Chanceland team accepts the Chanceland Farm Challenge Trophy (front row, from left): Sally Eck, Megan George, Katie Brooks and Libby Butts, as owner Katy Voss holds trophies from presenters Ann Merryman, judge Gary Contessa and MHBA president Richard F. Blue Jr. The groom's award, sponsored by EMO Agency, is given by Bill Reightler (back row). Farm manager Casey Randall hangs on to the ribbon and the champion.

she had her ears up, she had the shoulders that matched the engine, she just had it all in my opinion."

The victory was a sentimental one for the Chanceland team, as the Street Sense filly was one of the last foals Manfuso bred, and the last foal born, prior to his passing last March.

She is the final foal out of Manfuso's homebred Grade 2-winning mare Belterra, a daughter of Unbridled out of Manfuso-bred mare Cruising Haven, who has produced 13 foals including stakes winner Taketheodds, a full-sister to the champion filly; Sheave (Mineshaft), dam of Grade 1 winner Cathryn Sophia; and stakes-placed Mine Not Mine (Golden Lad).

"After the third class I was like, 'We're about to strike out, we have one fifth,' but we've always really liked her. We think she's an outstanding filly," said Voss. "Belterra's family obviously means a tremendous amount, particularly to Bob, because he bred her. [The champion filly] looks like she will be a great tribute to him."

The dam of four winners from nine starters, Belterra is now retired from breeding at age 22, but her daughters Taketheodds and Get Set Go (More Than Ready) continue her legacy as part of the Chanceland broodmare band. Taketheodds' filly by Imagining and Get Set Go's Long River filly were both participants in Class III (fillies by Maryland sires).

"It's funny because we've now won the Chanceland trophy for the fourth time, but none of them were in [the same ownership]–two of them were Bob and I, one of them was by himself, and this one is me, but I've got to win it two more times to keep the trophy," said Voss.

Voss was planning to send the Street Sense filly through the sales ring in the fall, though the choice of sale was still up in the air.

Contessa, a four-time leading trainer in New York who now trains privately for Bell Gable Stable at Delaware Park, wasn't shy in expressing his appreciation for being asked to judge this year's show.

"Five years ago, being the judge of this show was on my bucket list. And I sat back and I watched them ask Michael Matz and Linda Rice and Kenny McPeek, great, great buyers of yearlings, they're all fantastic, but I'm like, 'Man I'll probably never get asked.' Then one day the phone rings and it was Bill Reightler, and he said, 'How would you like to judge the yearling show?'" said Contessa. "I don't think people in our business realize what an honor this is. You look at the list of people that have done it before me–Elliott Burch, Preston Burch, Tommy Kelly, some of the greatest Hall of Fame trainers ever, Sunny Jim Fitzsimmons, you name it, and now my name is on that list, so this is absolutely an honor to me to judge this show."

And though he had to make his top picks, the overall quality of the group was apparent.

"If we were at a sale I'd be like, 'I wanna buy that one, I wanna buy that one, I wanna buy that one,' just an amazing group of horses and the spirit of the people that come out here in the rain to show their horses and love this, is second to none," he said.

Ellen Charles' Hillwood Stables' homebred filly by Great Notion took the reserve championship after winning Class III. She is the second victorious yearling show participant produced by her dam Dearie Be Good, a daughter of Scrimshaw, as she follows in the footsteps of her older half-sister Be Good, a 4-year-old daughter of the late Bandbox who won Class III at the 2018 show.

Dearie Be Good was a sentimental purchase for Charles, who bought her for $15,000 as a yearling at the 2007 Keene-

Breeder/owner Ellen Charles is all smiles as judge Gary Contessa hands her the reserve champion trophy for her Great Notion filly; Richie Blue presents the ribbon. Ann Merryman (left) and Bill Reightler (representing groom's award sponsor EMO Agency) look on. Hidden is handler Jenna Isennock.

land January sale. The mare's granddam Cardamine, a daughter of Secretariat, was bred and owned by Charles' mother Adelaide Close Riggs, and represented generations of a homebred line that traces back to the Blue Larkspur mare Best Blue, a stakes producer foaled in 1946.

"I bought her as a yearling just because I wanted something my mother had bred, or the bloodlines she had throughout her life," said Charles. "Probably not so much a good business decision as just for old times sake, for family. Dearie Be Good is quite a character."

Despite breaking her pelvis after coming out of the gate crooked in her first start and needing nearly a year to recover, Dearie Be Good made seven more starts for Charles, retiring in June 2010 with two wins, three thirds and $25,968 earned. She has since produced three winners from as many starters and foaled a full-brother to Be Good this year.

"That is probably her last foal just because she's reached a certain age. Her last two foals are really handsome, so that's exciting, and Be Good can run a little bit so that's good and who knows what this [Great Notion filly] will do, but she's very pretty and lovely," said Charles.

Ever since she was born, Charles and JoAnn Hayden, of Dark Hollow Farm where Charles keeps her horses, knew the filly was destined for the yearling show. But an injury she suffered as a weanling nearly derailed everything.

"Dearie just decided to buck and play and ran out and reared up on top of the Gator [utility vehicle] and came down with her legs, and it's all plastic between the fender and the front," said Hayden. "When she reared back up to pull her legs out, it actually just ripped this huge down flap laceration [in her chest]. . . it was horrible."

With a gaping hole from just below her shoulder and across the left side of her chest, the filly was rushed to New Bolton Center, in Kennett Square, Pa., where the team attempted to minimize the air getting into the open cavity by sewing everything up and placing surgical drains. The attempt to close the wound disintegrated within 10 days, but there was no damage to any internal organs and a positive prognosis.

The Great Notion filly had a long road ahead and Hayden hadn't felt comfortable with her or her staff overseeing her treatment outside of a hospital setting, so New Bolton recommended Nicole Manfredi, owner of a rehab farm near the clinic that specializes in taking care of horses with injuries.

A young filly with an old soul and mature mind, she flourished under Manfredi's care and returned home almost completely healed, with the only marking of her injury a small hole under her left armpit that the Dark Hollow team continued to treat.

"If you look really closely, under her left, it would be our armpit, that's the only thing left of the scar. But it is a true miracle," said Hayden. "I told Ellen, 'I'm so excited, my dream is still there.' My goal is to work hard on this horse, to finish the job Nicky had started because I still think she could be the class winner.' "

Goal achieved. Contessa complimented the filly, noting her "lovely topline" and "beautiful hind end."

Charles plans to keep the Great Notion filly and her one other yearling, a colt by Mastery out of Access to Charlie (a participant in Class II), to race.

Country Life Farm and Keep Right's Mosler colt stood out from the rest as he took the first-place ribbon for Class I (Maryland-sired colts and geldings). He was one of four ribbon winners for Country Life from seven entries.

"I really hand-picked the best yearlings we had on the farm and it actually showed because we were in the ribbons in [almost] every class, which was really cool, but to win the Maryland-sired class that's special, because it re-

Christy Holden accepts prizes from Fasig-Tipton's Paget Bennett for Class I-winning Mosler—Keep Right colt handled by Fabian Herrera, as Country Life's Mike Pons chats with judge Gary Contessa and MHBA director Bill Reightler joins the celebration.

Breeders David Hayden (left) and JoAnn Hayden (right) greet their Class II-winning Union Rags colt, handled by Kristen Fernandez, as Paget Bennett of Fasig-Tipton and Jim Steele of Shamrock Farm present awards, joined by ringmaster Bill Reightler.

Wanda Jones, for class sponsor Marama Farm, presents Ellen Charles with the hardware and ribbon for winning Class III with her homebred Great Notion filly, raised at the Haydens' Dark Hollow Farm. Handler Jenna Isennock also took the groom's award, sponsored by EMO Agency and given by Bill Reightler.

Judge Gary Contessa joins owner Katy Voss for the presentation of the trophy by Bill Reighter and ribbon and cash awards from Frank Vespe of The Racing Biz for the Class IV-winning Street Sense filly bred by the late Bob Manfuso and handled by Casey Randall.

Amateur judging contest winners David Heim and Olivia Carter.

Judges presentation made by judge's assistant Cindy Deubler and announcer Frank Vespe to Gary Contessa and wife Jennifer.

wards you for believing in your stallions and making the right choices for your mares, the horses that'll suit them, so that's a lot of fun," said Christy Holden, manager of Country Life and Merryland Farms.

The colt was the second Maryland-bred produced by the Street Cry (Ire) mare Keep Right, consigned as part of the Chester and Mary Broman dispersal at the 2018 Fasig-Tipton Saratoga fall mixed sale and purchased by Country Life, in foal to Lord Nelson, for $50,000. A daughter of the stakes-winning A.P. Indy mare Grand Merger, Keep Right comes from a family that includes Grade 1 winners Stephen Got Even and Artemis Argrotera, now a stakes producer.

"For our breeding partnerships we like to buy mares in foal to the 'sexy' Kentucky stallions and foal them here to get a Maryland-bred, and we bought her to breed her back to Mosler," said Holden.

Her 2019 Lord Nelson filly, fifth in Class IV at last year's show, sold for $70,000 as a yearling before she was pinhooked into this year's Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 2-year-old sale and purchased for $150,000 by Dennis O'Neill.

On May 2 last year, Keep Right delivered her large Mosler colt, and the birth was memorable.

"He will always be easy to remember because she tried to sneak him out in the field at 2:30 one afternoon," said Holden. "The guys were out mowing and called me and said, 'This mare's water just broke,' so we ran out just in time to catch him because she foaled him standing up. So he has his first baby pictures out in the green grass in the paddock."

After keeping him as a weanling to give the big-boned, stocky colt time to grow, the partnership is prepping him for the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall sale.

For the second year in a row, Dark Hollow Farm homebreds swept Class II (colts and geldings by out-of-state sires) as a Union Rags colt out of the Flatter mare Safe Journey took top honors.

"Safe Journey continues to give very good-looking horses, she always has. We're blessed with a very, very good-looking Union Rags colt, we think he's a standout. We've been happy with him since the day he was born," said Dark Hollow's David Hayden. "We were one, two, three and five, almost had the superfecta."

Dark Hollow's Malibu Moon colt out of Madison Avenue finished second in the class, while a Union Rags colt out of Joy finished third and a West Coast colt out Dr. Diamonds Prize owned by Dark Hollow in partnership with Dorsey Brown, Mr. and Mrs. David Schwaber and Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Davidov took fifth.

Dark Hollow's devotion to family lines shined through as the winning colt's dam Safe Journey is the dam of Joy, who produced the third-place colt.

"It's a very uncomplicated family. They're all very level-headed, [he's had] no issues along the way in his entire life. It's been a wonderful family as far as temperament goes, they've all got very, very good minds," said Hayden.

A half-brother to stakes winners Joy and O Dionysus, along with stakes-placed Combat Diver, the class winner is one of 11 yearlings Dark Hollow will sell at Fasig-Tipton this fall.

Cash prizes totaling $1,000 are paid out to ribbon winners in each class, with the champion receiving an extra $1,000 and the reserve champion getting an extra $500. Along with the worthwhile experience and exposure, all yearlings are eligible for $40,000 in premiums based on racetrack earnings as 2- and 3-year-olds. ❧

Special Thanks

The MHBA extends special thanks to show sponsors: Fasig-Tipton Midlantic, Harford County, Maryland Jockey Club, Marama Farm, Komlo and Associates, Inc., Northview Stallion Station, Shamrock Farms, The Racing Biz, This is Horse Racing, The Mill, MidAtlantic Farm Credit, Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Maryland Million Ltd., The EMO Agency, Larking Hill Farm and William Hess DVM. Added appreciation goes to the Maryland State Fair (provider of the facility), Gegorek and Co. P.A. (tent sponsor), Country Life Farm (straw) and Maryland Equine Center (on call throughout the day).

Results

Class I. For colts and geldings foaled in Maryland, the produce of mares covered in Maryland (28 exhibited)

1. b.c., Mosler—Keep Right, by Street Cry (Ire). Owned and bred by Country Life Farm and Keep Right, Bel Air, Md. 2. dk.b./br.c., Golden Lad—Renaissance Rosie, by Jump Start. Owned and bred by Ann B. Jackson, White Hall, Md. 3. Dowsing Rod, ch.c., Divining Rod—Final Humor, by Distorted Humor. Owned by David and Lori Hughes and Men's Grille Racing, Potomac, Md. Bred by Country Life Farm. 4. ch.c., Golden Lad—Southern Peach, by East of Easy. Owned and bred by Leaf Stable, Upperco, Md. 5. b.c., Great Notion—Corbeau, by Dance With Ravens. Owned by Katharine M. Voss, West Friendship, Md. Bred by Robert T. Manfuso and Katharine M. Voss.

Class I groom's award winner Christina Thomas with Lorna Baker and Thomas Michaels' Great Notion colt.

Class II groom's award winner Sallyellen Hurst prepared and showed her homebred Frosted colt.

Class II. For colts and geldings foaled in Maryland, the produce of mares covered in states other than Maryland (18 exhibited)

1. b.c., Union Rags—Safe Journey, by Flatter. Owned and bred by Dark Hollow Farm, Upperco, Md. 2. dk.b./br.c., Malibu Moon—Madison Avenue, by Quality Road. Owned and bred by Dark Hollow Farm, Upperco, Md. 3. b.c., Union Rags—Joy, by Pure Prize. Owned and bred by Dark Hollow Farm, Upperco, Md. 4. Frosted Temptation, dk.b./br.c., Frosted—Happy Refrain, by Not For Love. Owned and bred by Sallyellen M. Hurst and Godolphin, Glen Arm, Md. 5. b.c., West Coast—Dr. Diamonds Prize, by Pure Prize. Owned and bred by Dark Hollow Farm, Dorsey Brown, Mr. and Mrs. David Schwaber and Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Davidov, Upperco, Md.

Class III. For fillies foaled in Maryland, the produce of mares covered in Maryland (25 exhibited)

1. dk.b./br.f., Great Notion—Dearie Be Good, by Scrimshaw. Owned and bred by Hillwood Stable

Class IV groom's award winner Katie Brooks was at the head of Katy Voss' filly by Good Samaritan.

Premium award winners from 2018 and 2019 MHBA Yearling shows

The $40,000 MHBA Yearling Show premium is split and distributed twice among the four show contestants who earn the most money as 2- and 3-year-olds. The highest earners of 2020 received $13,000 for first; $4,000, second; $2,000, third; and $1,000, fourth.

Shown in 2018—3-year-olds in 2020

Judge: Rick Violette

Sharing—$362,451
ch.f., Speightstown—Shared Account, by Pleasantly Perfect; shown in Class IV by Sagamore Farm. *In 2020:* Won Edgewood S-G2, Tepin S, 2nd Coronation S-G1 (in England), 3rd American Oaks-G1

Project Whiskey—$199,280
dk.b./br.f., Tapizar—Over the Moon, by Malibu Moon; 1st in Class IV, shown by Dark Hollow Farm. *In 2020:* Won Delaware Oaks-G3, 2nd Monmouth Oaks-G3

Hello Beautiful—$150,552
dk.b./br.f., Golden Lad—Hello Now, by Tiznow; 2nd in Class III, shown by Hillwood Stables LLC. *In 2020:* Won Safely Kept S, Maryland Million Distaff H

Oxide—$109,613
ch.g., Golden Lad—Silver Ashlee, by Red Bullet; shown in Class I by Dark Hollow Farm

Shown in 2019—2-year-olds in 2020

Judge: Michael Stidham

Ain't Da Beer Cold—$91,242
ch.g., Freedom Child—Distinct Affair, by With Distinction; shown in Class I by Matt Spencer and Kelly Cox. *In 2020:* 2nd Howard County S

San Antone—$68,640
b.g., Bourbon Courage—Iflookscouldkill, by Louis Quatorze; shown in Class I by Michael J. Harrison DVM

Hello Hot Rod—$58,941
dk.b./br.c., Mosler—Hello Now, by Tiznow; shown in Class I by Hillwood Stables LLC

Reassured—$55,471
gr./ro.c., Bandbox—Bridled Assurance, by Unbridled's Song; shown in Class I by Hillwood Stables LLC. *In 2020:* 3rd Maryland Million Nursery S

LLC, Washington, D.C. 2. b.f., Divining Rod—Imagistic, by Deputy Minister. Owned and bred by Country Life Farm and Imagistic Broodmare II, Bel Air, Md. 3. b.f., Great Notion—Caramore, by Purge. Owned and bred by Timothy J. Rooney, Palm Beach, Fla. 4. Willful Desire, b.f., Friesan Fire—Will Do, by Roman Ruler. Owned and bred by Bell Gable Stable, Chesapeake City, Md. 5. b.f., Golden Lad—Any Given Chance, by Any Given Saturday. Owned and bred by Sugarland LLC Equine Etiquette, Poolesville, Md.

Class IV. For fillies foaled in Maryland, the produce of mares covered in states other than Maryland (16 exhibited)

1. dk.b./br.f., Street Sense—Belterra, by Unbridled. Owned by Katharine M. Voss, West Friendship, Md. Bred by Estate of Robert T. Manfuso. 2. b.f., Tiznow—Pinkprint, by Not For Love. Owned by GreenMount Farm and Winstar Farm, Upperco, Md. Bred by GreenMount Farm and Tiznow Syndicate. 3. b.f., Unified—No, by Animal Kingdom. Owned and bred by Dark Hollow Farm, Upperco, Md. 4. gr./ro.f., Cross Traffic—Your Flame in Me, by Boundary. Owned and bred by Country Life Farm and Your Flame in Me, Bel Air, Md. 5. dk.b./br.f., Unified—Flit, by Not For Love. Owned and bred by Dark Hollow Farm, Upperco, Md.

Champion—dk.b./br.f., Street Sense—Belterra, by Unbridled. Owned by Katharine M. Voss, West Friendship, Md. Bred by Estate of Robert T. Manfuso.

Reserve Champion—dk.b./br.f., Great Notion—Dearie Be Good, by Scrimshaw. Owned and bred by Hillwood Stable LLC, Washington, D.C.

Northview Stallion Station Challenge Trophy—GREAT NOTION. Presented to the Maryland stallion whose offspring earn the most points based on the following: five for first, three (second), two (third), one (fourth) and a half (fifth). The champion earns two and the reserve one.

The following stallions earned points at this year's show: Great Notion, 8.5 points (eight shown); Divining Rod, 5 points (four shown) and Mosler, 5 points (four shown); Golden Lad, 4.5 points (six shown); Friesan Fire, 1 point (three shown).

Groom's Awards: Class I, #13, Christina Thomas; Class II, #18, Sallyellen Hurst; Class III, #86, Jenna Isennock; Class IV, #33, Katie Brooks; Championship class, #26, Casey Randall (champion); #86, Jenna Isennock (reserve).

Amateur judging contest: David Heim and Olivia Carter.

Maryland-bred brings $275,000 at Saratoga

Sara Gordon

A chestnut colt from the first crop of Army Mule, bred by Wasabi Ventures Stables, Vandelay Stables, Michael J. Dzik and Greenspring Mares, sold for $275,000 as the only Maryland-bred in Fasig-Tipton's 100th Saratoga Selected Yearlings sale, Aug. 9 and 10 at the Humphrey S. Finney sales pavilion in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Consigned by Mill Ridge Sales, which bought the colt for $95,000 at this year's Keeneland January sale, he was purchased by Ben Gowans, agent, in Saratoga.

Now named Deployment, he is the first foal produced by Hurryupandcomeback, an unraced daughter of Mizzen Mast. His third dam is Grade 1 winner Shared Interest, dam of Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies-G1 winner Cash Run and Grade 1 winner and top sire Forestry, from the family of top sprinter Sewickley.

Army Mule is an undefeated Grade 1-winning son of Country Life Farm stallion Friesan Fire standing in Kentucky. He had three yearlings sell at Saratoga, all for six figures, averaging $358,333. ❧

MHBA Board selects 2021-2022 offficers

The Maryland Horse Breeders Association's board of directors appointed a new slate of officers at its meeting July 14 at the MHBA office in Reisterstown: Richard F. Blue Jr., president; Christy Holden, vice president; and Michael Horning, secretary/treasurer.

President of Blue & Obrecht Realty LLC, Blue first served on the board in 2001 and 2002, and later from 2011 to 2017, before he was re-elected for another three-year term in 2019. A past president of Maryland Million, Blue serves as co-chair of the Maryland Horse Library & Education Center Capital Campaign Committee and on the board of the Maryland State Fair.

Holden, general manager of Country Life and Merryland Farms, where she has worked since 2004, is serving her second term on the board after first being elected in 2018.

Horning, a retired insurance executive and current board member of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, was a presidential appointee to the MHBA board in 2018 and elected for a three-year term in 2019.

David Wade, MHBA vice president from 2018 to 2020, and Kent Allen Murray, secretary/treasurer since 2018, were ineligible to stand for re-election because of having served six consecutive years as a member of the MHBA Board. ❧

Maryland-bred Stakes Winners

Hoofprints, Inc.

Jerry Dzierwinski

Can the Queen sweeps to victory in the Sensible Lady Turf Dash

Can the Queen has risen up the ranks from claimer to stakes winner after taking command in the Pimlico stretch in the $100,000 Sensible Lady Turf Dash July 24.

Rated off early fractions of :21.63 and :44.31 in the 5-furlong turf stakes, Joanne Shankle's 5-year-old mare flew past pacesetter What a Trick and repelled a late rally from Flyingontheground to finish in :56.41

"I'm so excited for this filly," said trainer Rodolfo Sanchez-Salomon. "I never expected her to run this good. She just needs a good ride, patient, and she can run a little bit. At the end when she started moving up, I was just hoping she wouldn't stop because she usually stops a little bit when she gets in front. She got [the] perfect ride. She wasn't rushed in the beginning; she was just sitting there waiting for the moment to move on."

A daughter of Can the Man bred by Carol Ann Kaye, Can the Queen improved to four wins and a third from 12 career starts, for $139,033.

Unraced at 2, Can the Queen won her debut in September of her 3-year-old season for a $16,000 tag at Laurel. She didn't win again until May 2020, her first start at 4, in a Laurel waiver claimer, and picked up her first allowance score last September at Pimlico by 7 lengths going 5 furlongs on the main track.

Her stakes debut came in her first start this year, in the The Very One Stakes on Black-Eyed Susan Day at Pimlico. Although seventh, she was beaten 3½ lengths by winner Caravel. Can the Queen was even closer in the Jameela Stakes July 4, finishing 2¼ lengths back in fourth after leading early.

She is the last of four foals for her dam Queenterra, a daughter of Empire Maker. All four are winners. ❧

Rising Bella stakes her claim in Peach Blossom

It was a Maryland-bred sweep when Lowell Kinch's Rising Bella defeated Mosalah and Buff's in Love in the $50,000 Peach Blossom Stakes for Delaware certified fillies and mares July 7. Rising Bella lived up to her status as the favorite to win by 1½ lengths for her first stakes victory.

The 4-year-old daughter of Munnings came into the race off a 2-length score in a $35,000 claimer at Belmont June 18.

Settled in mid-pack as Miss Tap Dance led the group through an opening quarter-mile in :24.44, Rising Bella made a five-wide move on the turn and kicked into high gear down the center of the track, drawing clear late. The Steve Klesaris trainee stopped the clock at 1:29.26 for 7½ furlongs on the turf.

Sold for $17,000 as a yearling in the 2018 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic sale, Rising Bella was purchased by Black Cloud Stable and made her first eight starts for the stable. She broke her maiden at 2 in her second start, going 5½ furlongs on the dirt at Delaware in August 2019. In her third start, she switched to turf and finished second in the $100,000 Sorority at Monmouth Park. In her next start, the Selima Stakes at Laurel Park, she finished fifth behind Sharing, who captured the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies Turf-G1 next time out.

In search of the winner's circle, Rising Bella was dropped into the claiming ranks and recorded her second win in her 3-year-old debut, a 1-mile turf test at Gulfstream, where she was taken for $35,000 by her current connections. She made just two more starts last year, one a fifth in Gulfstream's Mrs. Presidentress Stakes in February, and was away from the races for 364 days.

With her stakes win she improved to 4-2-0 from 14 starts, while earning $137,196.

Bred by Timothy Rooney out of the Smart Strike mare Striking Bella, she is the fourth winner from five starters for the Rooney-bred mare, who has also produced stakes-placed Sunrise Sunset (City Zip) and $158,517 earner Velocita Brillante. Striking Bella foaled a Goldencents filly April 25. ❧

Field Pass wins Grade 3 BWI Turf Cup in homecoming

Racing in Maryland for the second time in his 20-start career, Three Diamonds Farm's Field Pass captured the $200,000 Baltimore/Washington International Turf Cup-G3 at Pimlico July 24, bursting through the tightest of openings along the rail to prevail by a neck.

Making his fourth start of the season, all graded, Field

Jim Duley

Pass was the 7-10 favorite in the scratched-down field of four. Stuck along the rail, he had to wait for room turning for home. He got up in the final yards over second choice Ramsey Solution. Final time for the mile was 1:35.12.

"We're obviously happy with the win. We had a few anxious moments there, but we're happy he got through and got there," trainer Mike Maker said by phone from Saratoga. "There weren't a whole lot of instructions. We basically said, 'He's the class of the field, get to the wire first,' and they did."

It was the 4-year-old gray/roan Lemon Drop Kid colt's first victory this year and boosted his career earnings to $728,143. Bred by Mark Grier, he was sold for $37,000 as a yearling to Owls Bloodstock at the 2018 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall sale.

The 2020 Maryland-bred champion 3-year-old male won five times and had three thirds, all in stakes, in 10 starts last year. Three wins were graded races. In his only other start in Maryland, he finished fourth in the Laurel Futurity at 2.

He is one of two winners, from three foals, for his dam Only Me, by Runaway Groom. ❧

Jerry Dzierwinski

Hello Beautiful takes Alma North

Brittany Russell's trainee Hello Beautiful led gate-to-wire in the $100,000 Alma North at Pimlico July 31 for her sixth career stakes victory.

Sent off the 1-10 favorite in the field of five, Golden Lad's 4-year-old daughter owned by Madaket Stables, Albert Frassetto, Mark Parkinson, K-Mac Stable and Magic City Stables broke quickly and posted an opening quarter-mile in :23.41. Barely pressured after a half in :45.84, she powered down the stretch to win by 3¾ lengths while completing 6 furlongs in 1:09.63.

"It's always anxious because she means so much to us and she's been so good," jockey Sheldon Russell said. "As soon as she got the first quarter I knew that she was in her happy place and it was cruise control from there. The final time was extremely impressive. She's a good filly." The win was the 1,500th of Russell's career.

It was the first stakes win for Hello Beautiful since the What a Summer at Laurel Park in January. In her start prior to the Alma North, she dueled with undefeated Chub Wagon and finished second, beaten a neck, in Pimlico's Shine Again Stakes in June.

Bred by Hillwood Stables, Hello Beautiful was purchased by Russell for $6,500 as a yearling out of the 2018 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December mixed sale. She is one of three starters for her dam Hello Now, a daughter of Tiznow whose other winner is 2021 3-year-old stakes winner Hello Hot Rod (Mosler).

In 16 starts, Hello Beautiful has eight wins, three seconds and one third and $464,610 in earnings.

Hello Now, now owned by Holly House Farm, has a yearling full-sister to Hello Beautiful and was bred to Hoppertunity for 2022. ❧

Jim McCue

Harpers First Ride wins Deputed Testamony again

Harpers First Ride, purchased privately by GMP Stables, Arnold Bennewith and Cypress Creek Equine last winter after winning or placing in 10 of 11 starts in 2020, four of them stakes, including the Pimlico Special-G3 in October, got back to his stakes-winning ways in the $100,000 Deputed Testamony Stakes July 31 at Pimlico, a race he won last September at Laurel Park.

Back with Claudio Gonzalez, who began training him after a claim in September 2019 and has sent him out to win 11 races from 17 starts (the 5-year-old gelding has one win in six starts for other trainers), Harpers First Ride broke quickly to the front and led five rivals through an opening quarter-mile in a dawdling :25.38. Cordmaker took over as the field headed up the backstretch, getting the half in :49.34 as Harpers First Ride continued to challenge from the inside. Seemingly a match race between the leading pair, Harpers First Ride blazed down the stretch to hit the wire in 1:49.52 for 1⅛ miles.

"This horse, you have to ride him for him to give you everything," Gonzalez said. "It's a good feeling. I believe he is going the right way."

Harpers First Ride has banked $699,664 with a record of 23-12-2-2.

The son of Paynter is the second foal out of Polyester (by Tiz Wonderful) purchased by Sagamore Farm as a yearling for $130,000 in 2011. Polyester never started, but her

first three foals bred by Sagamore are winners, including $161,110 earner Route Six Six (by Quality Road), a $200,000 Keeneland September sales yearling. Sagamore sold the mare, in foal to Quality Road, for $90,000 at the 2018 Keeneland January sale – the resulting filly, named In a Dream, is also a winner. ❧

Hoofprints, Inc.

Trifor Gold works hard for stakes victory in Sussex

Copper Penny Stables' homebred Trifor Gold held on to win the $50,000 Sussex by a nose and notch his first stakes victory over fellow Maryland-bred Cannon's Roar in the race for Delaware certified runners at Delaware Park July 8.

Making his first stakes start at Delaware since finishing seventh in the New Castle last September, Trifor Gold broke quickly to the front, battled through opening fractions of :23.53 and :46.20, and headed for home. When it looked like he would be caught he dug in and held off even-money favorite Cannon's Roar, who was drawing even as they hit the wire as a team. The Mark Shuman trainee finished 7½ furlongs on the turf in 1:29.19.

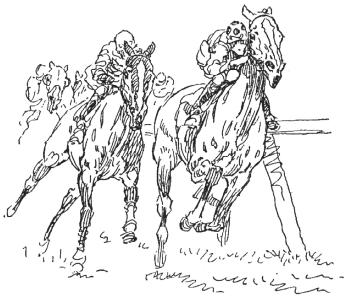
It was the 5-year-old Tritap gelding's first stakes victory in seven attempts, and boosted his earnings to $184,059 with four wins, four seconds and three thirds in 27 career starts.

Winning his 2-year-old debut in a 6-furlong waiver maiden at Laurel in November 2018, Trifor Gold made his stakes debut in his second start, finishing sixth in the Maryland Juvenile Futurity. The following year, he was winless 13 times out, but hit the board in five, including a second in the Federico Tesio Stakes at Laurel. He also finished fourth in the Sir Barton Stakes at Pimlico.

It wasn't until last September that he found the winner's circle again, his third start as a 4-year-old in a Delaware allowance.

This year, he kicked off the season with a victory in a $25,000 claimer at Penn National at 6 furlongs on the main track, and made three more starts before finishing second by a head in a stretch battle in a 1 1/16-mile claimer while risked for $25,000 at Pimlico in June. Next out was the Sussex, his third start on the grass.

Trifor Gold is the seventh foal out of the Gold Tribute mare Gold Scammer. She has produced 10 foals, with six winners from eight starters, including stakes-placed Ravenesque. Gold Scammer's youngest are the 2-year-old gelding Mercury Ten, and a yearling filly, both by Bourbon Courage. ❧



Maryland Fund Report

Bonuses paid for races at Maryland tracks
May 1 to May 31, 2021

Breeder bonuses

Andrew E. Ali—ROYALIAN: May 2, 6th race, $945; May 20, 5th race, $495. ($1,440)

Alberts Racing LLC—JOHNG: May 13, 7th race, $3,990.

Helen C. Alexander—FORT MOULTRIE: May 1, 6th race, $962.50.

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc.—INK: May 1, 2nd race, $742.50; May 29, 1st race, $1,732.50. OLIVE'S BUMPA: May 6, 6th race, $2,137.50. SOLEA: May 7, 3rd race, $787.50; May 29, 2nd race, $997.50. UNCOMMON VALOR: May 29, 1st race, $907.50. ($7,305)

James M. Anderson—APERITIVO: May 9, 3rd race, $1,155; May 30, 3rd race, $605. AS-BUILT: May 1, 5th race, $3,847.50. ($5,607.50)

Angelinos Racing LLC—MIRANDA'S DESMOND: May 14, 3rd race, $2,257.50.

AS Rennklub LLC—ALADDIN SANE: May 7, 5th race, $495. MAHKATO: May 22, 5th race, $1,155. ($1,650)

Barak Farm—JOHNNY SACK: May 14, 2nd race, $1,430.

Barak Farm and Dinos Thoroughbreds LLC—GOLDEN G: May 30, 6th race, $945.

David Baxter Sr.—HEMP: May 15, 3rd race, $1,375. WALK IT OUT NANNY: May 22, 4th race, $787.50. ($2,162.50)

William Bayne—BERNIE'S ON FIRE: May 1, 10th race, $2,707.50.

Best Foot Forward LLC—ALL ABOUT AUDREY: May 31, 8th race, $3,135.

Bluegrass Farm Partners Inc.—PRODIGIOUS BAY: May 14, 4th race, $7,410.

Richard F. Blue Jr.—HAIR OF THE DOG: May 22, 7th race, $1,417.50.

Bonita Farm—CALYPSO GHOST: May 1, 3rd race, $605.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman—MY QUEEN MICHELLE: May 31, 1st race, $787.50.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman—CABRA CHICA: May 8, 1st race, $1,732.50; May 23, 2nd race, $1,100. RAPIDASHQUEEN: May 23, 1st race, $1,155. ($3,987.50)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Rebecca Davis—CLAIRE'S DARLING: May 30, 2nd race, $1,155. GREAT GO GO: May 8, 2nd race, $1,102.50. TOM TERRIFIC: May 31, 3rd race, $412.50. ($2,670)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Rebecca Davis and Dr. Brooke Bowman—LA CASTIGLIONE: May 1, 5th race, $1,417.50.

Shellaine Brown and Susan Baldrige—GOING TO THE LEAD: May 15, 5th race, $2,730.

Christine E. Bricker—RONA: May 28, 6th race, $1,732.50.

Derek Brown—CHARLIE POTATOES: May 9, 3rd race, $605; May 30, 1st race, $605. ($1,210)

Buckingham Farm—I LOVE YOU: May 7, 8th race, $1,837.50.

Henry S. Clark III—GLENGAR: May 28, 3rd race, $2,565.

Clover Hill Racing LLC—LADNEEDSAHANDLER: May 1, 2nd race, $1,417.50. MAKE IT A DOUBLE: May 30, 2nd race, $605. ($2,022.50)

Randy L. Cohen and Alyse L. Cohen—HONOR MY WORLD: May 13, 5th race, $742.50. STAND MY GROUND: May 30, 8th race, $412.50. ($1,155)

Susan S. Cooney—MOSBY'S RANGER: May 20, 4th race, $1,155.

Country Life Farm—BILLINGSGATE: May 6, 2nd race, $907.50. RESPONSE TIME: May 14, 3rd race, $6,127.50. ($7,035)

Country Life Farm and Heather LLC—SWING YOUR SWORD: May 22, 1st race, $522.50.

Country Life Farm and Moon Map Broodmare LLC—TOMMY SHELBY: May 8, 6th race, $4,987.50.

Country Life Farm and Sagamoon LLC—IRISH SAGA: May 13, 6th race, $2,565.

Country Life Farm and Sassy Molly LLC—PEPE AND HEYWOOD: May 30, 6th race, $495.

Country Roads Ltd.—TAPDANCING GIRL: May 8, 7th race, $605; May 22, 9th race, $742.50. ($1,347.50)

Mike Dalton LLC—CONJECTURE: May 23, 9th race, $1,575.

Dark Hollow Farm—TAUBER: May 6, 4th race, $962.50.

D. Hatman Thoroughbreds LLC—AUDACIOUS QUALITY: May 20, 6th race, $3,135.

Hassan Elamri—GOLDEN CAN: May 2, 2nd race, $1,470.

Joan Parker Everett—GIFTED HEART: May 6, 7th race, $2,362.50.

Finale Farm and Mr. and Mrs. David Moose—HUFFLEPUFF: May 22, 6th race, $1,470.

Finn's Nickel LLC and Anchor and Hope Farm, Inc—EGG NOG: May 8, 3rd race, $495; May 31, 5th race, $495. EXCULPATORY: May 28, 8th race, $5,985. ($6,975)

Mrs. Janon Fisher III—FAIRY WISH: May 9, 4th race, $3,277.50.

Fitzhugh LLC—LOOKIN DYNAMIC: May 7, 8th race, $962.50. SHERIFF'S KID: May 13, 2nd race, $605; May 21, 3rd race, $2,565. ($4,132.50)

Paul L. Fowler Jr.—TAPPIN CAT: May 31, 7th race, $2,467.50.

Scott C. Fuchs—NO FOOLING DUDE: May 1, 10th race, $522.50.

Robert J. Gerczak—LITTLE BAY: May 9, 8th race, $787.50.

Glenangus Farm LLC—EIFS: May 21, 2nd race, $1,102.50. PROPER STORM: May 20, 2nd race, $4,702.50. ($5,805)

William R. Gotwals—GLOSSAMER: May 23, 3rd race, $1,155.

Sheryl Grant—SHE'S ALL COURAGE: May 13, 2nd race, $1,155.

Michael J. Harrison DVM—JUDI BLUE EYES: May 7, 8th race, $4,987.50; May 15, 4th race, $7,410. ($12,397.50)

Terri Haupt—TALENTED DR. B: May 9, 2nd race, $787.50; May 31, 3rd race, $787.50. ($1,575)

Heritage Stallions Inc.—SCARLET TANAGER: May 30, 2nd race, $3,135.

Hillwood Stable LLC—BE GOOD: May 22, 8th race, $1,837.50. DREAM BIG DREAMS: May

29, 8th race, $1,837.50. SELF ASSURED: May 20, 2nd race, $1,732.50. ($5,407.50)

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth C. Holt—GOLDEN LASSIE: May 30, 4th race, $742.50.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Holt and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Palumbo—IMA IMA STARBOY: May 23, 6th race, $4,702.50.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Holt and Charles Reed—MONSTER RISING: May 20, 2nd race, $907.50.

Michael and Debbie Horning—GIMME'S GOLDENGIRL: May 22, 8th race, $962.50.

Jagger Inc.—APRILNESS: May 22, 2nd race, $1,155.

R. Larry Johnson—BLUE SKY PAINTER: May 8, 9th race, $605. DAY THE MUSIC DIED: May 7, 1st race, $3,562.50. KEEPER IN SPITE: May 8, 4th race, $2,137.50. KING ALAN: May 30, 3rd race, $1,155. SKY'S NOT FALLING: May 6, 4th race, $1,837.50; May 21, 9th race, $5,985. STREET COPPER: May 14, 7th race, $2,887.50. WHO KNOWS WHAT: May 14, 3rd race, $1,182.50. ($19,352.50)

Harry Kassap LLC—PERFUME RIVER: May 23, 3rd race, $605. SEVILLE BARBER: May 20, 6th race, $605. ($1,210)

Carol A. Kaye—CHARM CITY BAND: May 30, 5th race, $1,470.

Estate of Alan S. Kline—SHAKA STYLE: May 30, 8th race, $2,137.50.

Joanne P. Krishack—COMMANDING GENERAL: May 1, 10th race, $997.50.

Lady Olivia at North Cliff LLC—BOURBON GAL: May 7, 4th race, $605. DARE TO PROMISE: May 21, 5th race, $2,100. WATCHTHEBOURBON: May 21, 6th race, $945. ($3,650)

Legacy Farm—DON'TBAGGAGECHECK: May 21, 1st race, $412.50.

Estate of Robert T. Manfuso—CAMPARI: May 9, 1st race, $2,137.50. CHAUFFEUR: May 22, 7th race, $742.50. CHICA RABIOSA: May 8, 1st race, $4,702.50. ($7,582.50)

Robert T. Manfuso and Katharine M. Voss—NO MORE TALK: May 7, 1st race, $1,312.50; May 29, 5th race, $1,102.50. ($2,415)

Marathon Farm Inc.—CLOSER LOOK: May 30, 7th race, $1,575. DASHING LOU: May 28, 3rd race, $495. FOOL YOURSELF: May 14, 14th race, $1,017.50. ROCKIN RON: May 21, 6th race, $495. ($3,582.50)

Daniel E. Marconi—GALERIO: May 8, 8th race, $6,697.50.

Charles C.D. McGill—CRY NO MORE: May 6, 4th race, $4,987.50; May 28, 8th race, $1,155. ($6,142.50)

James F. McIngvale—PRETTYHAPPY: May 1, 5th race, $742.50.

William Meister and Julie Arbogast—ZEN PI: May 9, 5th race, $3,990.

Edwin Merryman and Adena Springs—AWESOME JAZZ: May 2, 2nd race, $770.

Louis M. Merryman—NO KNOCK RAID: May 28, 9th race, $1,102.50.

Mill Hill Stable LLC—SEBASTIAN: May 8, 5th race, $1,732.50; May 29, 1st race, $4,702.50. ($6,435)

Kevin P. Morgan—MANKLIN CREEK: May 2, 6th race, $2,565. YESTERDAYSPLAN: May 2, 7th race, $577.50; May 13, 4th race, $577.50. ($3,720)

Wayne Morris and Juanita Morris—BROKER'S REWARD: May 1, 6th race, $1,837.50.

Audrey R. Murray—PAY THE KID: May 20, 4th race, $605. PETION LASS: May 28, 7th race, $2,137.50. ($2,742.50)

Nancy Lee Farms—EASTERN BAY: May 23, 8th race, $6,697.50.

William Niarakis Jr.—SHAKE D MOON: May 9, 4th race, $632.50.

No Guts No Glory Farm—BANDITS WARRIOR: May 23, 2nd race, $5,700. MAMA G'S WISH: May 8, 1st race, $907.50. ($6,607.50)

Ronald Harris Parker—MARVELLA NASTY: May 22, 6th race, $3,990. SUNDAY IN L B C: May 2, 8th race, $412.50; May 23, 4th race, $787.50. ($5,190)

Dr. and Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau—BETHABARA: May 28, 2nd race, $1,522.50. HANALEI'S HOUDINI: May 31, 7th race, $6,697.50. JAXON TRAVELER: May 15, 3rd race, $2,750. LUCIAN: May 21, 4th race, $1,155. ($12,125)

Quest Realty—MOONZANO: May 7, 2nd race, $945.

Vivian E. Rall—GREAT IDEA: May 31, 4th race, $1,100.

Cynthia K. Rickman—RICA CHICA: May 8, 7th race, $3,135.

Randy Ridgely and Gary Ridgely—WICKED HOT: May 6, 5th race, $2,100; May 28, 6th race, $4,702.50. ($6,802.50)

Nancy M. Rizer and Eric A. Rizer—PRINCESS KOKACHIN: May 31, 6th race, $1,837.50.

Timothy J. Rooney—B DETERMINED: May 22, 5th race, $605. MISCHIEFS MODEL: May 31, 6th race, $4,987.50. PROMENADE PRINCESS: May 29, 2nd race, $2,707.50. ($8,300)

John Ryan and Monica Ryan—PASCAL CHANT: May 8, 2nd race, $2,992.50.

Sagamore Farm LLC—WHERE PARADISE LAY: May 14, 6th race, $2,887.50.

Shamrock Farm—RAN CHAR: May 1, 1st race, $3,135; May 23, 9th race, $4,275. ($7,410)

Stephen T. Sinatra—JACKIE A: May 23, 6th race, $1,732.50.

Skeedattle Associates—HOT CHOICE: May 2, 1st race, $412.50.

Smith Farm and Stable—EL ROJO: May 28, 1st race, $787.50. RAVEN RAHY: May 7, 2nd race, $495. ($1,282.50)

Bob G. Sowder—GOLDIE'S BOY: May 30, 1st race, $1,155.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Spingler and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mongold—C TWO: May 13, 6th race, $495.

John D. Stuart—BELFOUR: May 2, 4th race, $3,135; May 21, 8th race, $3,135. ($6,270)

Sweet Spirits Stables LLC—SWEET ASTA: May 22, 7th race, $3,847.50.

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—BUFF'S IN LOVE: May 1, 9th race, $4,275. DOUBLEOSEVEN: May 29, 8th race, $4,987.50. FIRE IN THE HOLE: May 8, 5th race, $907.50. SINGLINO: May 8, 6th race, $962.50. SIR BACK IN BLACK: May 6, 3rd race, $1,522.50. ($12,655)

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC and Ellen Charles—CLOSERTOTHEHEART: May 31, 2nd race, $2,100.

The Elkstone Group LLC—CAN'T PASS IT UP: May 29, 8th race, $962.50. CRANSTON'S NETWORK: May 28, 4th race, $1,155. HIGHER PURPOSE: May 1, 7th race, $787.50. LIFESPAN: May 28, 4th race, $3,135. SELF AWARENESS: May 21, 4th race, $3,135. ($9,175)

Thornmar Farm LLC—WHY NOT TONIGHT: May 14, 14th race, $5,272.50.

Thornmar Farm and Colleen Torsney—JUSTWAVEANDSMILE: May 30, 5th race, $3,990.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Thurston—TRUE SHIPMAN: May 9, 8th race, $412.50.

Two Legends Farm—BENANDJOE: May 1, 6th race, $4,987.50; May 14, 4th race, $2,730. ($7,717.50)

University of Maryland—FEARLESS LASSIE: May 1, 1st race, $1,155.

Walter N. Vieser II—ITALIAN DRESSING: May 31, 6th race, $962.50.

Warning Drums Racing LLC—GLEAMING SWORD: May 29, 9th race, $742.50.

Mr. and Mrs. Bayne Welker Jr.—DESHACKLED: May 6, 2nd race, $4,702.50.

Willow Oaks Stable LLC—OUR NIKKI L: May 30, 4th race, $1,417.50.

Winding Creek Farm—WHISKEY AND YOU: May 23, 8th race, $2,467.50.

Mrs. Frank P. Wright—GRACE ISABELLA: May 13, 8th race, $945.

Virginia Wright, Mary Jones and Robin L. Graham—BRIGHTWOOD: May 30, 1st race, $3,135.

ZWP Stable and Non Stop Stable—MALIBU BEAUTY: May 22, 8th race, $4,987.50.

Stallion bonuses

BALTIMORE BOB (Johng: May 13, 7th race, $1,329.47. Little Bay: May 9, 8th race, $262.40): Robert Gerczak—$1,591.87.

BANDBOX (Be Good: May 22, 8th race, $612.26. Dream Big Dreams: May 29, 8th race, $612.26. Manklin Creek: May 2, 6th race, $854.66): Bandbox Syndicate—$2,079.18.

BOURBON COURAGE (Bourbon Gal: May 7, 4th race, $201.59. Egg Nog: May 8, 3rd race, $164.93; May 31, 5th race, $164.93. Ink: May 1, 2nd race, $247.40; May 29, 1st race, $577.27. Make It a Double: May 30, 2nd race, $201.59. Marvella Nasty: May 22, 6th race, $1,329.47. Olive's Bumpa: May 6, 6th race, $712.22. Proper Storm: May 20, 2nd race, $1,566.87. She's All Courage: May 13, 2nd race, $384.85. Uncommon Valor: May 29, 1st race, $302.38. Watchthebourbon: May 21, 6th race, $314.87): Bourbon Courage Syndicate—$6,168.37.

BUFFUM (Buff's in Love: May 1, 9th race, $1,424.43. Commanding General: May 1, 10th race, $332.37. Ima Ima Starboy: May 23, 6th race, $1,566.87. Malibu Beauty: May 22, 8th race, $1,661.84): Buffum Syndicate—$4,985.51.

CAL NATION (Judi Blue Eyes: May 7, 8th race, $1,661.84; May 15, 4th race, $2,469.01. Sunday in L B C: May 2, 8th race, $137.45; May 23, 4th race, $262.40): Country Cal Nation Syndicate—$4,530.70.

DEPUTY STORM (No Knock Raid: May 28, 9th race, $367.35): Deputy Storm Syndicate.

DESPITE THE ODDS (Keeper in Spite: May 8, 4th race, $712.22. Scarlet Tanager: May 30, 2nd race, $1,044.58): R. Larry Johnson—$1,756.80.

ETCHED (Calypso Ghost: May 1, 3rd race, $201.59. Pascal Chant: May 8, 2nd race, $997.10): Bonita Farm Stallion Partnership—$1,198.69.

FREEDOM CHILD (Glengar: May 28, 3rd race, $854.66. Tom Terrific: May 31, 3rd race, $137.45): Freedom Child Syndicate—$992.11.

FRIESAN FIRE (Bernie's On Fire: May 1, 10th race, $902.14. Hot Choice: May 2, 1st race, $137.45. Whiskey and You: May 23, 8th race, $822.17): Friesan Fire Syndicate—$1,861.76.

GIACOMO (Rona: May 28, 6th race, $577.27): Giacomo Syndicate.

GOLDEN LAD (All About Audrey: May 31, 8th race, $1,044.58. Asbuilt: May 1, 5th race, $1,281.99. C Two: May 13, 6th race, $164.93. Golden Can: May 2, 2nd race, $489.80. Golden Lassie: May 30, 4th race, $247.40. Ladneedsahandler: May 1, 2nd race, $472.31. Sir Back in Black: May 6, 3rd race, $507.30): Golden Lad Syndicate—$4,208.31.

GREAT NOTION (Closertotheheart: May 31, 2nd race, $699.72. Conjecture: May 23, 9th race, $524.79. Cry No More: May 6, 4th race, $1,661.84; May 28, 8th race, $384.85. Great Go Go: May 8, 2nd race, $367.35. Great Idea: May 31, 4th race, $366.52. Italian Dressing: May 31, 6th race, $320.71. Zen Pi: May 9, 5th race, $1,329.47): Great Notion Syndicate—$5,655.25.

HANGOVER KID (Hair of the Dog: May 22, 7th race, $472.31. Pay the Kid: May 20, 4th race, $201.59): Hangover Kid Syndicate—$673.90.

HUNTERS BAY (Eifs: May 21, 2nd race, $367.35): Stronach Group LP.

IMAGINING (Chica Rabiosa: May 8, 1st race, $1,566.87. Claire's Darling: May 30, 2nd race, $384.85. Glossamer: May 23, 3rd race, $384.85): Imagining Syndicate—$2,336.57.

MOSLER (Bandits Warrior: May 23, 2nd race, $1,899.24. Fool Yourself: May 14, 14th race, $339.03. Fort Moultrie: May 1, 6th race, $320.71. Irish Saga: May 13, 6th race, $854.66. Johnny Sack: May 14, 2nd race, $476.48. Miranda's Desmond: May 14, 3rd race, $752.20. Monster Rising: May 20, 2nd race, $302.38. Pepe and Heywood: May 30, 6th race, $164.93. Raven Rahy: May 7, 2nd race, $164.93. Response Time: May 14, 3rd race, $2,041.68. Wicked Hot: May 6, 5th race, $699.72; May 28, 6th race, $1,566.87): Country Life Farm, Adele Dilschneider and Seth Hancock—$9,582.83.

NICANOR (Ran Char: May 1, 1st race, $1,044.58; May 23, 9th race, $1,424.43. Sweet Asta: May 22, 7th race, $1,281.99): Nicanor Syndicate—$3,751.

NOT FOR LOVE (No More Talk: May 7, 1st race, $437.33; May 29, 5th race, $367.35): Not For Love Syndicate—$804.68.

ORIENTATE (Dashing Lou: May 28, 3rd race, $164.93. No Fooling Dude: May 1, 10th race, $174.10. Rica Chica: May 8, 7th race, $1,044.58): Orientate Syndicate—$1,383.61.

OUTFLANKER (Mama G's Wish: May 8, 1st race, $302.38): Outflanker Syndicate.

PETIONVILLE (Petion Lass: May 28, 7th race, $712.22. Royalian: May 2, 6th race, $314.87; May 20, 5th race, $164.93): Everest Stables Inc.—$1,192.02.

PLAN (Yesterdaysplan: May 2, 7th race, $192.42; May 13, 4th race, $192.42): Stronach Group LP—$384.84.

REDEEMED (Going to the Lead: May 15, 5th race, $909.64): Redeemed Syndicate.

SCIPION (Shake D Moon: May 9, 4th race, $210.75): Scipion Syndicate.

SEVILLE (GER) (Brightwood: May 30, 1st race, $1,044.58. Goldie's Boy: May 30, 1st race, $384.85. I Love You: May 7, 8th race, $612.26. Perfume River: May 23, 3rd race, $201.59. Seville Barber: May 20, 6th race, $201.59. Sky's Not Falling: May 6, 4th race, $612.26; May 21, 9th race, $1,994.20. Solea: May 7, 3rd race, $262.40; May 29, 2nd race, $332.37): Seville Syndicate—$5,646.10.

STREET MAGICIAN (Cabra Chica: May 8, 1st race, $577.27; May 23, 2nd race, $366.52. Street Copper: May 14, 7th race, $962.12): R. Larry Johnson—$1,905.91.

SUPER NINETY NINE (Billingsgate: May 6, 2nd race, $302.38. Fairy Wish: May 9, 4th race, $1,092.06. Gifted Heart: May 6, 7th race, $787.19. Hemp: May 15, 3rd race, $458). Sebastian: May 8, 5th race, $577.27; May 29, 1st race, $1,566.87. Tommy Shelby: May 8, 6th race, $1,661.84). Walk It Out Nanny: May 22, 4th race, $262.40): Country Life Farm—$6,708.01.

TRITAP (Rapidashqueen: May 23, 1st race, $384.85. Tapdancing Girl: May 8, 7th race, $201.59; May 22, 9th race, $247.40. Tappin Cat: May 31, 7th race, $822.17): Tritap Syndicate—$1,271.16.

Maryland-bred top earners in 2021

(through August 2)

1. Knicks Go	$3,485,000	11. Pete's Play Call	$113,564
2. Jaxon Traveler	224,448	12. Paisley Singing	109,555
3. Street Lute	191,500	13. Judi Blue Eyes	107,836
4. Field Pass	162,250	14. Galerio	107,827
5. Aloha West	160,568	15. Rather Nosy	103,780
6. Hello Beautiful	147,500	16. Cordmaker	102,500
7. Harpers First Ride	126,609	17. Edie Meeny Miny Mo.	101,984
8. Laki.	121,500	18. Hemp	97,648
9. Malibu Beauty	121,118	19. Tattooed	96,800
10. Exculpatory	114,462	20. Cry No More	96,573

THE THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER

Post Time

- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - **September 2021** -

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Monmouth Park increases purses across the board and adds three more September racing days

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Golden Brown outclasses field in John J. Reilly Handicap

Put Golden Brown in the familiar surroundings of Monmouth Park, and then against Jersey-breds, and good things tend to happen for the gritty 6-year-old gelding.

He did again on July 4 in the $75,000 John J. Reilly Handicap for state-breds. The son of Offlee Wild showed good early speed to work his way into contention and then flashed his strong closing kick as he added to his impressive career credentials with a 2¾-length victory.

Though trainer Pat McBurney remains unconvinced that 6 furlongs is the best distance for Golden Brown, it was hard to make that case after he covered the distance in 1:09 flat.

Jockey Paco Lopez hustled Golden Brown out to a stalking third-place position early behind speedster Optic Way and Prendimi

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and moved to pass Prendimi midway down the backstretch. Through a :44.72 first half, Golden Brown then set his sights on Optic Way, collaring the frontrunner in mid turn and pulling away as he came out of the turn into the stretch. Optic Way held for second, 1½ lengths ahead of Prendimi.

"He was very good today," said Lopez. "He broke well this time. But he always runs good, always has heart. [His] last race in Delaware he wasn't comfortable with the track. But we know he likes Monmouth Park. I had a feeling he would be good today.

"I was able to break third and keep the other two close and when I asked him he gave me everything he had. As he gets older I think he can handle the shorter distances. I just had to get him in position after he broke so well. He knows what to do."

McBurney missed the race because he was saddling Sweet Sami D in the Caesar's Wish Stakes at Pimlico (she finished third), and what he missed was this: Golden Brown's fifth stakes win at Monmouth Park. In 16 career starts at Monmouth, Golden Brown has six wins, five seconds and a third.

Overall, he sports a 9-6-4 line from 29 starts in a career that has seen him win going long, short, in the slop, on the grass and on fast tracks and capture Delaware Park's Kent Stakes-G3 in 2018. He has a 3-1-1 line from five career sprints as well.

"I did not get to see the race. I was putting a saddle on Sweet Sami D at Pimlico and I looked in my phone and I was getting congratulations so that's how I knew he won," said McBurney. "I tried to catch the replay and it never came up and then the race down here ran. I was surprised he was as close as everyone said he was. When I looked at the speed figures it looked like we would be in fifth early and have a wide trip, so it's great that he broke so alertly. That's two bang-up sprints he has run this year and I'm still not sure six furlongs is what he likes best."

Golden Brown, who boosted his career earnings to $673,620, paid $6 to win in the field of seven that was reduced by two scratches.

Owned by ABL Stable, Dominic Bossone, Peter Donnelly and Nadine Schnorr, Golden Brown was bred in New Jersey by Esther de Jong out of the Chester House mare Suzee Sunrise.

He'spuregold rallies to win Irish War Cry Handicap

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

Owner and breeder John Bowers was so confident in the turf breeding of He'spuregold that he specifically targeted a summer stakes race for trainer Kelly Breen to point to with the then-3-year-old maiden gelding this spring.

That race was the $85,000 Irish War Cry Handicap and Bowers' faith was rewarded in a big way as He'spuregold skimmed the rail coming out of the final turn and went on to a 1-length victory in the feature at Monmouth Park, just one month after breaking his maiden.

A half-brother to 2019 New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year Valedictorian, He'spuregold is a son of Australian sire Vancouver out of Smart N Classy. He paid $5.40 to win in the field of eight New Jersey-breds, 3 and up, covering the mile over a firm turf course in 1:35.53.

"This was on Mr. Bowers' plan when he gave me the horse to run at Monmouth this spring," said Breen.

"We talked about this race on Jan. 1. He had this circled on his calendar. He asked me if I could get him to this race."

The optimism on Bowers' part was steeped simply in the turf breeding, since He'spuregold took seven tries to break his maiden. Given to Breen from Michelle Nehi three races ago, He'spuregold now has two wins and a second over that span.

Ridden by Nik Juarez, He'spuregold was kept off the early pace of Optic Way, who was hounded by Quiberon Bay through fractions of :24.46, :47.77 and 1:10.75 for three quarters of a mile.

As Quiberon Bay engaged Optic Way in the stretch, Juarez sent He'spuregold through an opening on the rail. Quiberon Bay finished second, a head better than Optic Way.

"The trip was perfect," said Juarez. "I thought I was sitting a perfect spot off the speed. We were going honest fractions and knowing that I knew I was in a perfect spot if the rail opened and I had the horse. It opened and I had enough horse to get through and he dug in really gamely."

Said Breen, "He rode him great, the rail opened up, it all worked out."

He'spuregold, owned by Bowers' Roseland Farm Stable, now shows a 2-2-3 line from eight career starts, all on the turf.

Groovy Surprise prevails in Jersey Girl Handicap, earning second straight stakes victory

Groovy Surprise apparently enjoyed her first stakes victory so much in her prior start that she wanted to experience the feeling again. The 4-year-old filly broke alertly, set moderate early fractions and then held off a determined Bramble Bay in what was essentially a stretch-long duel to win the $85,000 Jersey Girl Handicap at Monmouth Park July 18.

EQUI-PHOTO, INC. (2)

Trained by Rory Huston and ridden by Mychel Sanchez, the daughter of Giant Surprise broke through for her first stakes win June 27, taking the Smart N Classy Handicap by three-quarters of a length. This time the margin was just a head, but Groovy Surprise was determined not to give in to the lengthy challenge of Bramble Bay. It was another 11½ lengths back in third to Diamond Play. Time for the mile over a track labeled "muddy" was 1:39.11.

Originally scheduled for the grass, the race was shifted to the main track, reducing the field from the original 12 Jersey-breds to six.

"She's probably the best she has ever been right now," said Huston. "The race set up for her. It was originally on the grass, it came off. I'm not sure if it was the rain dance I did. Then there were quite a few scratches and everything set up for her."

Bred and owned by Hope Haskell Jones, Groovy Surprise notched her fourth victory in 13 career starts. She has hit the board in 10 of those starts.

"Last race we weren't trying to be on the lead," Sanchez said. "I just wanted to be in a good position early. But she got

to the lead and she was very good. This time I thought 'we'll go to the lead again but if someone goes crazy we can sit off.' She broke so well that we found ourselves on the lead. She was comfortable there. Then in the stretch she was game. She was not going to let [Bramble Bay] go by her. You could tell by the effort she was giving."

The filly carried the field through fractions of :24.31, :47.71 and 1:12.42 for 6 furlongs, which is when Bramble Bay loomed alongside and the two then went head-to-head.

Groovy Surprise increased her career earnings to $226,430.

Monmouth Park increases purses across the board and adds three more September racing days

Monmouth Park increased purses across the board as of July 17 and is adding three live racing days on Fridays in September, racing secretary and director of racing John Heims announced July 3.

The purse increases took effect the day of the $1 million TVG.com Haskell Stakes-G1, the track's showcase race.

The Nownownow Stakes for 2-year-olds going a mile on the turf received the biggest purse boost, increasing to $500,000 from $150,000. Named for the 2007 winner of the inaugural Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf at Monmouth Park, the second edition of the Nownownow Stakes will be the closing day feature on Sunday, Sept. 26.

Maiden special weight races and allowance races have purse increases of 20 percent, with claiming races over $12,500 getting a 10 percent increase and claimers that go for $12,500 or less having a 5 percent purse increase.

Purses for all non-state bred stakes races that were $75,000 are now $100,000, while $75,000 New Jersey-bred stakes races were increased to $85,000.

"We're thankful to Gov. Philip Murphy and to the leadership in the state Senate and Assembly who continue to support racing in New Jersey," said Dennis Drazin, the Chairman and CEO of Darby Development LLC, the operators of Monmouth Park. "A supplemental appropriation was passed and signed into law, and with rain preventing us from writing more races during the early stages of the meet, we have $5.5 million to spend on purses to support the Monmouth Park product as a result.

"We believe it was important to make the announcement at this time so horsemen can plan for the balance of the meet. We feel these increases will further strengthen what is already a quality product."

Several other stakes races will see purse boosts as well. The Sapling Stakes (Sunday, Sept. 5) and the Sorority Stakes (Monday, Sept. 6), fixtures for 2-year-olds on the Monmouth Park racing calendar, will each get a $100,000 purse bump to $200,000.

Monmouth Park's original schedule called for live racing on Saturdays and Sundays only for the final three weekends of September. Friday day cards will now be added to those weekends.

Monmouth Park will conduct live racing from Friday through Monday over the Labor Day weekend Sept. 3 through Sept. 6.

Following a one-year hiatus due to COVID-19, the Monmouth-at-Meadowlands meet will return with nine live Thoroughbred cards in October. Those all-turf programs in East Rutherford will see significant purse increases as well. The purse structure for that meet will be announced when the racing dates are finalized.

North Carolina

THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

September 2021

President's message

Hello everyone,

Wow, nine winners.

Two horses bred in North Carolina won this reporting period, and both at Woodbine. One bred by Frank Batten and the other bred and owned by Bill Thompson. That hasn't happened before since I've been posting results. Also, two progeny out of the mare She'sa Tough Tiger, owned by Beth Muirhead, were victorious as well. Congratulations to them, Clint, Nancy, and Caroline for their wins and to all who had horses entered in a race.

Thank you, members, for all your support and for keeping our organization going.

/Rebecca Montaldo

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

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Racing Recap

Double Tough Tiger (Tourist out of She'sa Tough Tiger, by Tiger Ridge) won July 1 at Ellis Park for breeder Beth Muirhead. The 3-year-old filly ran 1 mile in the rain on a sloppy, sealed track in 1:36.18. Breaking second, Double Tough Tiger went to the lead early, set the pace throughout the race, drew clear late in the stretch under a drive to win by 8¼ lengths. This is her second win in a row.

Condemnation (Speightster out of Southern Silence, by Dixie Union) won July 5 at Thistledown for owner Caroline Cooper – Check Racing. The 2-year-old colt broke his maiden in just his third start going 6 furlongs on a fast track. Condemnation went four wide trying to get to the lead. Moved to three wide on the turn, he went to the front at the top of the stretch and drew clear under urging to win by 2¼ lengths.

Condemnation wins at Thistledown for owner Caroline Cooper – Check Racing. *Bill Denver/Equiphoto*

Tough to Tame (Speightster out of She'sa Tough Tiger, by Tiger Ridge) broke his maiden in only his second start July 8 at Arlington Park for breeder Beth Muirhead. The 2-year-old colt ran 5 furlongs on a fast track in :59.41. Tough to Tame tracked fourth down the backstretch and angled into the two path to gain position, went to the rail near the three-sixteenth-pole, came under a drive, took the lead 40 yards out and won by a half length.

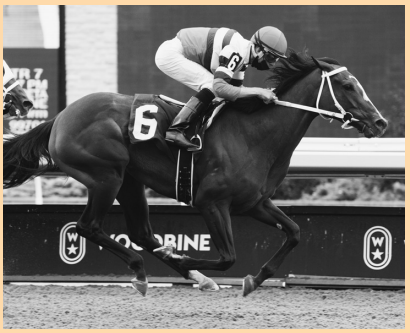
Cayenne Creek (Misremembered out of Hot Creek Risin', by Bring the Heat) won July 10 at Charles Town for breeder Clint Lowry. The 5-year-old gelding ran 6½ furlongs in 1:19.90 on a fast track. Cayenne Creek tracked close into the backstretch, got boxed in near the five-sixteenths pole, regained his stride past the quarter pole, moved to the two path at the head of the stretch, took the lead in mid-stretch, drew away and won by 2¼ lengths.

Ima Daredevil (NC-Bred) (Daredevil out of Prom Dress, by Stephen Got Even) won July 18 at Woodbine for breeder Frank Batten. The 4-year-old filly went 6 furlongs on a good turf course. Ima Daredevil ran mid-pack early, chased her rivals going two to three wide, angled out to the five path turning for home, passed the leader at the sixteenth-pole and opened up to win by 1½ lengths.

North Carolina-bred Ima Daredevil wins at Woodbine for breeder Frank Batten. ©*Michael Burns*

Lyrical Gangster (Can the Man out of Legato, by Where's the Ring) won at Colonial Downs July 19 for breeder/owner Bill Thompson. The 3-year-old gelding ran 1 1/16 miles on the firm inner turf course. Lyrical Gangster tracked the pace on the inside. Making his move, he got through a wall of horses entering the stretch, avoided a drifting foe near the sixteenth-pole, and got up to win by a neck.

Admonish (NC-Bred) (Mosler out of Adjudicate, by Jump Start) won at Woodbine July 22 for breeder/owner Bill Thompson. The 3-year-old filly went 1 1/16 miles on a fast all-weather surface. She raced near the back of the pack on the inside around both turns, tucked in through an opening and surged to the lead to win by 1¼ lengths.



Another North Carolina-bred winner as Admonish scores at Woodbine for breeder/owner Bill Thompson. ©*Michael Burns*

Miranda Sofia (Tapizar out of Keep It a Secret, by Thunder Gulch) won at Gulfstream Park July 23 for breeder Nancy Shuford. The 4-year-old filly ran 1 mile on a good track in 1:40.49. Miranda Sofia stalked the pace early on the inside, moved two wide around the turn, took the lead at the five-sixteenths pole, drew away in the upper stretch and widened under urging to win by 3¾ lengths.

Miranda Sofia wins at Gulfstream for breeder Nancy Shuford. ©*Lauren King/Coglianese Photography*

Rockin Anna Rollin (Fast Anna out of Rockhouse, by Chelsey Cat) won at Charles Town July 24 for breeder Nancy Shuford. The 4-year-old filly ran 4½ furlongs in :52.76. Rockin Anna Rollin tracked the pace early on the inside, was pressed into the turn, took the lead running on rail to winning by 3 ½ lengths.

Hitting the Board

June 25 – July 24, 2021

Date	Horse	Track	NCTA Connection	Result
25-Jun	Afleet Roger	Evangeline Downs	Bred by Denise Walsh - Never Better Stables	3rd
26-Jun	Always Special	Thistledown	Owned & bred by Beth Muirhead	2nd
26-Jun	Ima Daredevil (NC)	Woodbine	Bred by Frank Batten	3rd
29-Jun	Catauga County	Mountaineer	Bred by Nancy Shuford	3rd
1-Jul	Double Tough Tiger	Ellis Park	Bred by Beth Muirhead	**WINNER!**
2-Jul	Descent	Lone Star Park	Bred by Nancy Shuford	2nd
2-Jul	Virginia Beach	Pimlico	Owned by James Jones in partnership	2nd
5-Jul	Condemnation	Thistledown	Owned by Caroline Cooper - Check Racing	**WINNER!**
5-Jul	Kid Mercury	Delaware Park	Owned by Caroline Cooper in Partnership	2nd
7-Jul	Tough To Tame	Arlington	Bred by Beth Muirhead	**WINNER!**
10-Jul	Cayenne Creek	Charles Town	Bred by Clint Lowry	**WINNER!**
11-Jul	Champagne Camie	Belmont Park	Bred by Beth Muirhead	2nd
13-Jul	Royalbonnielegacy	Finger Lakes	Owned by Brad Graham in a partnership	3rd
18-Jul	Ima Daredevil (NC)	Woodbine	Bred by Frank Batten	**WINNER!**
19-Jul	Lyrical Gangster	Colonial Downs	Bred & owned by Bill Thompson - Maple Lane Farm	**WINNER!**
22-Jul	Admonish (NC)	Woodbine	Bred & owned by Bill Thompson - Maple Lane Farm	**WINNER!**
23-Jul	Condemnation	Belterra Park	Owned by Caroline Cooper - Check Racing	2nd
23-Jul	Miranda Sofia	Gulfstream Park	Bred by Nancy Shuford	**WINNER!**
24-Jul	Noble El Sid	Charles Town	Bred by Clint Lowry	2nd
24-Jul	Rockin Anna Rollin	Charles Town	Bred by Nancy Shuford	**WINNER!**
24-Jul	Firing Carol	Saratoga	Bred by Nancy Shuford	2nd

PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

PA Thoroughbred NEWSLETTER

September 2021
pabred.com

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:** Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:** Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:** Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:** Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

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Beren's connections have decades-long line of winners

by Emily Shields

The success of Pennsylvania-bred Beren, a three-time stakes winner in 2021, is a story nearly four decades in the making. It weaves together the friendship between Christopher Feifarek and Stephen and Susan Quick, as well as the brilliance of a few homebred runners, into a tale worthy of a full-length novel. And it all started with Kattegat's Pride.

In 1982, Feifarek bought his very first yearling at auction, and had to ship it somewhere to reside until its racing days. "It ended up at St. Omer's Farm, which was the Quicks' farm," Feifarek recalled. "I went to visit the horse on the farm, met them, and we hit it off immediately."

The Quicks had a gray filly in training at the same time named Kattegat's Pride. The Maryland-bred daughter of North Sea was running consistently in allowance races, but had yet to win a stakes. "This was the first time I knew anyone else that owned a racehorse," Feifarek recalled. "I was with them at the track when she won her first stakes race, and I became her biggest fan outside the owners."

Kattegat's Pride, who ultimately won a Grade 3 for the Quicks, was a homebred. "We'd purchased a barren mare, Pilgrim's Pride, in 1977 to get Kattegat's Pride in 1979," Susan Quick explained. "That's what started it all." Retired with 19 wins in 54 starts for earnings of $511,812, Kattegat's Pride became a broodmare carrying the Quick couples' hopes and dreams, but fell flat. "She was a terrible broodmare with only had four foals," Quick said. "But somehow, she goes on and on."

All three of Kattegat's Pride's starters became winners, but none did more than break their maiden. The only filly of the group was Kattebuck, by Kentucky Derby winner Spend a Buck.

"It was a foal share with the stallion owner," Feifarek said. "They were going to split the foal 50/50, but the other guy wanted to cash out his half. I bought him out to become the co-owner of Kattebuck, and I was thrilled to death to have a chance to own part of this horse."

Kattebuck was retired in 1992. "Since she was the only filly Kattegat's Pride ever had, we knew if we wanted to keep that line going, we'd have to retire Kattebuck and breed her," Feifarek said. Unlike her dam, Kattebuck had considerable success as a broodmare. Of her eight starters, seven won, for progeny earnings of $1,313,045. The bulk of that was made up from her brilliant millionaire daughter, Silmaril.

A daughter of Diamond, Silmaril won 16 of 36 starts, including 12 stakes races. Her graded wins included the Endine Handicap-G3 at Delaware Park and Pimlico Breeders' Cup Distaff

Handicap-G3 at Pimlico, the latter over multiple Eclipse Award winner and Hall of Famer Ashado. The brilliant dark bay filly finished in the top three 26 times, and retired with the ability to be bred to numerous top-class Kentucky stallions.

She did not get in foal to Giant's Causeway for 2009, but produced a winning More Than Ready filly in 2010. Silmaril's Exchange Rate daughter Suzy Blue Light was a four-time winner, and she had a three-time winner named Suzy Moonlight, by Blame. But then the partnership turned inwards to look at local studs.

Susan Quick's son Chip Wheeler heads WynOaks Farm in Delta, Pa., and had an attractive stallion prospect standing named Weigelia. A dual Grade 3-winning millionaire who was Grade 1-placed at Saratoga, Weigelia had the look of a strong prospect in the Keystone State.

"There were a couple of years where we traded off which person would breed Silmaril," Feifarek said. "We wanted to breed to different horses, so to resolve the issue we took turns. The idea of going to Weigelia was 100% the Quicks'. Looking back on it, there were reasons why Weigelia was a good idea; he kept spitting out these allowance and stakes level horses, and he had a stakes winner out of the Quicks' mare Katarica Disco [a daughter of Silmaril's half-sister Legal Kat]. Steve Quick always said Weigelia threw very well conformed foals, while Silmaril's were always crooked."

The fairytale story paused around this time, as Steve Quick passed and Silmaril struggled to stay in foal.

"Silmaril didn't have a foal in 2019, and Sue approached me about partnering on the 2018 colt as a joint venture," Feifarek said. "I took her up on it and became a retroactive partner on the horse that became Beren."

Trained by Robert Reid Jr., Beren took five tries to break his maiden, but since then has been nearly flawless. The bay colt scored by 6¼ lengths at Parx Feb. 10 going 6 furlongs, then added an allowance race at the same track March 3. He was fourth in the Grade 3 Bay Shore at Aqueduct after stumbling quite badly at the start.

"Forget about conditions," Quick lamented. "He jumped right into graded company! But we leave that all to the trainer; we don't tell him what to do. He's the last word."

Reid's word was good, as Beren then reeled off three consecutive stakes wins.

First came the $100,000 Gold Fever Stakes at Belmont Park on May 9. Beren won by a nose, gutting out a victory over Candy Man Rocket. "I've had horses for 40 years now, and his win there was my first in a New York race," Feifarek said. "It was the smallest margin of victory that I'd ever had in a win. One race later it was the largest margin of victory I'd ever had."

Wheeled back in the $100,000 Paradise Creek Stakes on May 30, Beren led throughout to score by 10¾ lengths. After two straight Belmont wins, he returned to Parx to annex the $100,000 Crowd Pleaser Stakes by 9½ lengths. The 1 1/16-mile race was originally scheduled for the grass, but came off the turf due to rain.

"He'd never gone two turns before," Quick said, "but I remember the announcer saying that he certainly doesn't have any trouble with it. I was told by Sonny Hines (of Skip Away fame) years ago that a good horse will run on anything."

"He reminds me of his mother at this point," Feifarek said. "She could win at six furlongs, seven, a mile, a mile and an eighth… Most stakes horses are either a sprinter, or a miler, but they've got flexibility. We can run him wherever it suits him, with endless opportunities to keep up his momentum."

Feifarek has extra reason to cheer for the special Pennsylvania-bred, as he and his wife donate a tenth of all their purse earnings to Itineris, a nonprofit group serving adults with autism.

"Hopefully he can stay good down the line and hold up physically," Feifarek said of Beren, who has five wins and two seconds in 11 starts for earnings of $291,470. "He can run on dirt or turf, short or long, against Pennsylvania-breds or not. The sky's the limit with him."

A few words from the Executive Secretary

Our new online registration system is up and running and the feedback has been very positive. No more paper! A shout out to Vicky Schowe for leading this project. If you are experiencing any issues, please let us know and we also welcome your comments.

PA Day at the Races 2020 on Aug. 23 was a huge success with a great turnout! It was great to be back together again. Congratulations to all the competitors! We hope to continue the high spirits and good luck from PA Day into the fall months for broodmare domicile. Don't miss out on being part of the top breeding programs in the country! As a reminder, Broodmare Domicile Reports are due to the PHBA by Dec. 1. Broodmares must be in the state by Dec. 1, or within 14 days of a public sale (60 days if the sale is outside the U.S.). If you're breeding back to a registered PA stallion, you must complete the domicile report within 14 days of entering the state and reside continuously for 60 days through foaling.

Forms can be found online at www.pabred.com. It would be greatly appreciated if you can fill out and submit the form online. If you are unable to submit the form online, you may either print out a report and mail it in, or let us know and we'll mail a copy to you.

Our annual Stallion Directory forms will be mailed and emailed to our stallion owners and broodmare domicile farm owners to have your information listed. Submissions will be due in early October. Don't miss out on this free service! Good luck for the balance of 2021. Go Pa!!

2021 PENNSYLVANIA-BRED STAKES SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, APRIL 27 **PARX RACING**	**$100,000 PAGE MCKENNEY HANDICAP** 3 & up, 7 furlongs 1st - Wait For It, 2nd - Chilly in Charge, 3rd - Breezy Gust	**$100,000 UNIQUE BELLA STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 7 furlongs 1st - Chub Wagon, 2nd - Promised Storm, 3rd - Ujjayi
FRIDAY, MAY 28 **PENN NATIONAL**	**$100,000 LYPHARD STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 1/16 miles, turf 1st - Trolley Ride, 2nd - Midnight Obsession, 3rd - Discretely Tough	**$100,000 WITH ANTICIPATION STAKES** 3 & up, 1 1/16 miles, turf 1st - Ravens Delight, 2nd - Chilly In Charge, 3rd - Saratoga Jack
TUESDAY, JUNE 22 **PARX RACING**	**$100,000 CROWD PLEASER STAKES** 3YO, 1 1/16 miles, turf	**$100,000 POWER BY FAR STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 5 furlongs, turf
MONDAY, JULY 19 **PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS**	**$100,000 MALVERN ROSE STAKES** 3YO fillies, 6½ furlongs 1st - Just One Time, 2nd - Maldives Model, 3rd - Tactical Pajamas	
MONDAY, JULY 26 **PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS**	**$100,000 PRINCESS OF SYLMAR STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 mile 70 yards 1st - Darcy Mae, 2nd - Redeem My Heart, 3rd - Wildcat Cartridge	
TUESDAY, JULY 27 **PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS**	**$100,000 HARD SPUN STAKES** 3 & up, 1 mile 70 yards 1st - Wait for It, 2nd - Viski Jones, 3rd - Ravens Delight	
PENNSYLVANIA'S DAY AT THE RACES **MONDAY, AUGUST 23** **PARX RACING**	**$100,000 BANJO PICKER SPRINT STAKES** 3 & up, 6 furlongs **$100,000 MRS. PENNY STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 1/16 miles, turf	**$100,000 MARSHALL JENNEY HANDICAP** 3 & up, 5 furlongs, turf **$100,000 STORM CAT STAKES** 3 & up, 1 1/16 miles
	$100,000 DR. TERESA GAROFALO MEMORIAL STAKES 3 & up, fillies & mares, 6 furlongs	
MONDAY, SEPT. 13 **PRESQUE ISLE DOWNS**	**$100,000 FINEST CITY STAKES** 2YO fillies, 6 furlongs	**$100,000 MARK MCDERMOTT STAKES** 2YO, 6 furlongs
SATURDAY, SEPT. 25 **PARX RACING**	**$200,000 ALPHABET SOUP HANDICAP** 3 & up, 1 1/16 miles, turf	**$200,000 PLUM PRETTY STAKES** 3 & up, fillies & mares, 1 1/16 miles
FRIDAY, OCT. 22 **PENN NATIONAL**	**$100,000 DANZIG STAKES** 3YO, 6 furlongs	**$100,000 NEW START STAKES** 3YO fillies, 6 furlongs
FRIDAY, NOV. 26 **PENN NATIONAL**	**$200,000 SHAMROCK ROSE STAKES** 2YO fillies, 6 furlongs	
TUESDAY, DEC. 7 **PARX RACING**	**$200,000 PENNSYLVANIA NURSERY STAKES** 2YO, 7 furlongs	

GET READY!

THE PHBA MOVES FOUR STAKES TO $200,000

SATURDAY, SEPT. 25
PARX RACING
ALPHABET SOUP HANDICAP
3 & UP, 1 1/16M, TURF
PLUM PRETTY STAKES
3 & UP, F&M, 1 1/16M

FRIDAY, NOV. 26
PENN NATIONAL
SHAMROCK ROSE STAKES
2YO FILLIES, 6F

TUESDAY, DEC. 7
PARX RACING
PENNSYLVANIA NURSERY STAKES
2YO, 7F

& ADDS TWO $100,000 3 YEAR OLD STAKES!

FRIDAY, OCT. 22, PENN NATIONAL

DANZIG STAKES, 3YO, 6 FURLONGS
NEW START STAKES, 3YO FILLIES, 6 FURLONGS

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South Carolina

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2021

Racing Across the Nation

Three graduates of South Carolina training centers crossed the finish line first in four stakes races between June 22 and July 20.

Beren, winner of Belmont Park's Gold Fever Stakes May 9 and Paradise Creek Stakes May 30, came right back to capture the Crowd Pleaser Stakes at Parx Racing June 22. Beren was laying third for the opening half-mile and then ran through the stretch like a 2-5 favorite is expected to. He was much the best winning by 9½ lengths while under wraps. Beren was developed for his racing career by Randy and Kala Rentz. Beren has now won 5 of 8 starts this year.

Groovy Surprise, a graduate of Travis Durr's Webb Carroll Training Center, proved best in the Smart N Sassy Handicap at Monmouth Park June 27. Groovy Surprise set the pace before briefly losing the lead with a quarter mile to go. She fought back in upper stretch and hit the wire three-quarters of a length in front. She came back three weeks later to win the Jersey Girl Handicap over the same track. This time, the 4-year-old filly broke on top and never looked back. In front by 2½ lengths after the opening half-mile, Groovy Surprise was challenged at the top of the stretch, battled to the wire and would not be denied, winning by a head.

One more former Travis Durr pupil, A Life That's Good, ran against an overwhelming favorite in the Niagara Stakes at Fort Erie June 28. A Life That's Good would not settle for second place. Never far back, this 3-year-old filly launched her bid after straightening for home, caught the leader and drew clear to win by 1¼ lengths.

Kingstree Trials return

R.B. "Bobby" McCutchen, his wife, Debby, and son Jason are happy to announce the 25th running of the King's Tree Trials will be held Nov. 6.

Built on a former tobacco field, the McCutchen Training Center has been the home of the Trials since 1995, which are annually held on the first Saturday in November. Both Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse trials make up the program. This event is held in Kingstree, S.C.

Equine subcommittee hears from Thoroughbred experts

Efforts to promote racing—and the horse industry as a whole—are moving forward. The newly formed equine study committee met at the State House June 23, with significant input from the SCTOBA.

Legislation passed last year resulted in the formation of a committee "to examine the potential for further growth of the equine industry in this state." Appointed by House and Senate members, the group consists of Rep. Russell Ott, Rep. Bill Hixon, Sen. Dick Harpootlian, Sen. Katrina Shealey, Jack Sadler, Debby McCutchen and Kip Elser.

Ott, who introduced the legislation that formed the committee, was elected chairman. Members were inquisitive and positive about the equine industry and its future.

SC Department of Agriculture assistant commissioner Clint Leach cited four categories for growth in the equine community: race-related activities, training facilities, arenas for competitions, and recreation. A study commissioned by SCDA shows a $1.9 billion economic impact from the equine industry.

In response to SCTOBA representatives who cited a decline

continued

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in the Thoroughbred business, Sen. Harpootlian asked what the state needs to do to change. McCutchen mentioned incentives, which led to a discussion of practices in other states.

Harpootlian asked about wagering, but Elser said the committee's role is to look at every possible venue which could benefit the horse industry.

"At the end of the day, the incentives are about dollars and cents," Ott said. "We want to look at all the issues to see the biggest impact." He used Kentucky as an example. "What has Kentucky done that South Carolina has not done to bring people to the state?"

The group requested information on how other states fund their racing. Ott emphasized that they will keep an open mind as they seek to enhance horse ownership and the equine industry as a whole.

SOUTH CAROLINA-TRAINED WINNERS

Horse	*Training Center*	*Date*	*Track*	*Type of Race*
Hannah Dances	Rentz Training Center	7/20/21	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Forty Stripes	Webb Carroll Training Center	7/18/21	Monmouth Park	Maiden Special Weight
Olive Kat	Mason Springs	7/18/21	Pimlico	Allowance
Castle Review	Shuler Stables	7/18/21	Mountaineer Park	Allowance
Delaware Destroyer	Custom Care - D. Freyer	7/17/21	Pimlico	Allowance
GROOVY SURPRISE	Webb Carroll Training Center	7/17/21	Monmouth Park	Jersey Girl H
Bye Bye Bertie	Elloree Training Center	7/17/21	Del Mar	Allowance
Kauai	Aiken - Cary Frommer	7/17/21	Prairie Meadows	Allowance
November Rein	Webb Carroll Training Center	7/16/21	Saratoga	Maiden Special Weight
Lisheen	Webb Carroll Training Center	7/16/21	Saratoga	Maiden Special Weight
Literally	Rentz Training Center	7/16/21	Penn National	Allowance
Smile Bryan	Webb Carroll Training Center	7/15/21	Saratoga	Allowance
Party At Page's	Webb Carroll Training Center	7/14/21	Finger Lakes	Allowance
WellingtonWonder	Elloree Training Center	7/14/21	Indiana Grand	Allowance
Bulger	McCuthchen Training Center	7/13/21	Belterra Park	Maiden Special Weight
Kaylasaurus	Rentz Training Center	7/13/21	Penn National	Allowance
We the Clouds	Custom Care - D. Freyer	7/12/21	Presque Isle Downs	Allowance
Delaware Destiny	Custom Care - D. Freyer	7/12/21	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
Dubini	Aiken - Legacy Stable	7/12/21	Delaware Park	Allowance
Charlie O	Elloree Training Center	7/11/21	Belmont Park	Maiden Special Weight
Montauk Traffic	Aiken - Legacy Stable	7/11/21	Belmont Park	Allowance
Water's Edge	Custom Care - D. Freyer	7/10/21	Belmont Park	Maiden Special Weight
Take Me Home	Custom Care - D. Freyer	7/10/21	Charles Town	Allowance
Sparkle of Hope	Elloree Training Center	7/10/21	Ellis Park	Maiden Special Weight
American Piper	Aiken - Thompson	7/10/21	Charles Town	Maiden Special Weight
Rustler	McCutchen Training Center	7/9/21	Ellis Park	Maiden Special Weight
Bourbon's Hope	Rentz Training Center	7/9/21	Belmont Park	Maiden Special Weight
American Talent	Webb Carroll Training Center	7/7/21	Parx Racing	Allowance
Quality Stones	Webb Carroll Training Center	7/7/21	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Hannah Dances	Rentz Training Center	7/7/21	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Tactical Pajamas	Rentz Training Center	7/7/21	Presque Isle Downs	Allowance
Hey Congrats	Webb Carroll Training Center	7/6/21	Fort Erie	Allowance
Centre Court Champ	Webb Carroll Training Center	7/6/21	Parx Racing Racing	Allowance
Flower's Fortune	Rentz Training Center	7/6/21	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Sting Like Abby	Aiken - Cary Frommer	7/6/21	Indiana Grand	Maiden Special Weight
Admiralty Pier	Webb Carroll Training Center	7/4/21	Woodbine	Allowance
Tiergan	Elloree Training Center	7/3/21	Belmont Park	Allowance
Jilli Marie	Webb Carroll Training Center	7/2/21	Woodbine	Allowance
Shyza	Rentz Training Center	7/1/21	Delaware Park	Allowance
Allure Fortune	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/30/21	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Throwing Stones	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/28/21	Finger Lakes	Maiden Special Weight
A LIFE THAT'S GOOD	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/28/21	Finger Lakes	Niagara S
Wicked Finn	Kirkwood Stables	6/28/21	Parx Racing Racing	Allowance
Irish Unity	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/27/21	Lone Star Park	Allowance
GROOVY SURPRISE	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/27/21	Monmouth Park	Smart N Sassy H
Dialing Dixie	Rentz Training Center	6/27/21	Pimlico	Maiden Special Weight
Continuation	McCutchen Training Center	6/27/21	Ellis Park	Allowance
Scatter the Clouds	Aiken - Mike Keogh	6/27/21	Woodbine	Maiden Special Weight
Bode's Tipsy	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/26/21	Woodbine	Maiden Special Weight
She'sarollingstone	Shuler Stables	6/26/21	Pimlico	Maiden Special Weight
Walk Away Joe	Elloree Training Center	6/25/21	Pimlico	Allowance
Dig Charlie Dig	Elloree Training Center	6/25/21	Pimlico	Allowance
Forest Fire	Rentz Training Center	6/25/21	Pimlico	Allowance
Castle Review	Shuler Stables	6/25/21	Charles Town	Maiden Special Weight
Muad'dib	Shuler Stables	6/24/21	Charles Town	Allowance
Walk Up Music	Aiken - Legacy Stable	6/24/21	Delaware Park	Allowance
Kaylasaurus	Rentz Training Center	6/23/21	Penn National	Allowance
Holmdel Park	Custon Care - D. Freyer	6/22/21	Finger Lakes	Allowance
Atina Salsa	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/22/21	Parx Racing Racing	Starter Handicap
Double Doink	Rentz Training Center	6/22/21	Parx Racing Racing	Allowance
The Jones Boy	Rentz Training Center	6/22/21	Parx Racing Racing	Maiden Special Weight
BEREN	Rentz Training Center	6/22/21	Parx Racing Racing	Crowd Pleaser S
Ego	Aiken - Cary Frommer	6/22/21	Indiana Grand	Allowance
American Talent	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/21/21	Parx Racing Racing	Starter Allowance
Concealed Carry	Webb Carroll Training Center	6/20/21	Woodbine	Maiden Special Weight

VIRGINIA

Caption 1 - Jockey Horacio Karamanos atop Bert Allen Stakes winner Passion Play. (Coady Photography)

Caption 2 - Grateful Bred wins the Meadow Stable Stakes at Colonial's opening day card. (Coady Photography)

Colonial Downs Kicks Off Its Summer Meet With Record Handle, Virginia Restricted Stakes

Colonial Downs kicked off its 2021 racing season July 19 with a record opening day handle of $2.66 million --- spurred by a trio of $100,000 Virginia-restricted turf stakes along with a fourth for Virginia-bred/sired horses --- and the return of fans to the New Kent track now in its third year under ownership of the Colonial Downs Group.

"We would like to thank the horsemen, our fans on and off site and our team for starting the meet on the right foot," said John Marshall, Executive VP Operations for the Colonial Downs Group. "What a delight it was to see 2,500 fans at Colonial Downs on a Monday afternoon with such enthusiasm. We appreciate our fans for urging a new all-time Colonial Downs all-source handle opening day record. Looking at today's card, Colonial Downs has arrived at a whole new level."

Colonial's all-time leading rider Horacio Karamanos reached the winners circle three times in the opener including a gate-to-wire victory atop Reiley McDonald's Passion Play in the 1 1/16th miles Bert Allen Stakes. The 5-year-old Hold Me Back gelding crossed two lengths ahead of Forloveofcountry, who had a four-race win streak snapped.

"I expected someone else to go to the front, but when my horse broke out of the gate and took the lead, I tried to control the pace and at the half mile mark, knew I had plenty of horse left," said Karamanos. "I'm so happy to come here and win this much. This is like my home. I broke records here and feel so happy when I'm back at Colonial Downs."

The Virginia-bred winner, a Mary Eppler trainee, broke his maiden two years ago in New Kent and pushed his bankroll to $197,947.

Gordon Keys' Grateful Bred captured the 5 1/2-furlong Meadow Stable Stakes and gave Middleburg, Virginia-based trainer Madison Myers her first stakes win. The 5-year-old Great Notion gelding raced three-wide around the turn, took the lead at the top of the stretch and crossed 2 1/4 lengths ahead of Sky's Not Falling. He is now 4-for-5 on the turf with earnings of $159,765.

"It's pretty important and exciting to get my first stakes win," said Myers. "I can't thank Mr. Keys enough for giving me a chance with a horse like this. We only have a handful of horses, so for him to leave him with me and let us go down this route is very special. The horse is Maryland-bred and Virginia-Certified, and we want to support both programs," she continued. "We moved to Virginia 8 1/2 years ago, bought a house and just had a baby, so we're pretty settled here now."

Newtown Anner Stud Farm's Tasting the Stars earned her third stakes win in the Nellie Mae Cox for Virginia-bred and sired horses with Feargal Lynch in the irons. The John Kimmel trainee was fifth heading into the final turn, launched an inside bid turning for home, and won by 2 1/4 lengths. The 5-year-old Bodemeister mare is now 5-for-7 with earnings of $204,600.

Big Lick Farm's Puppymonkeybaby prevailed in the M. Tyson Gilpin Stakes, her second straight win, and gave trainer Sarah Nagle her second win on the opening day card. The lightly raced 3-year-old Hit it a Bomb filly was sent off at 24-1 and was making just her third lifetime start. Winning jockey Jevian Toledo collected his second stakes win — he also guided Grateful Bred to victory. Betting favorite Street Lute, winner of seven dirt stakes, finished sixth in her first effort on grass.

Another Trio of $100,000 Virginia-Restricted Stakes Follow In Early August at the New Kent Track

Big Lick Farm's Cavalier Cupid became the first horse to win twice at the Colonial meet when she captured the $100,000 Keswick Stakes for 2-year-old fillies at 5 1/2 furlongs August 2. The daughter of Quality Road scored a maiden special weight win on opening day.

In both races, Cavalier Cupid trailed DARRS Inc.'s Rambert until the top of the stretch where she eased past the frontrunner and went on to victory. The stakes margin was by one length; the maiden win was by two. Rambert was runner-up in both. Jockey Horacio Karamanos, who rode for Big Lick in both, reflected on the stakes triumph.

"The filly that was second, she really tried today but my filly was better. When I asked her to give me a kick, they otherwise go with me a little bit, but my filly, she was rolling at the end. I think she can go longer too. She's fast out of the gate but when you pull her back, she relaxes nice."

"She just doesn't do a single thing wrong," said trainer Sarah Nagle on Cavalier Cupid. "She's just a pleasure to train. If they were all like this, it would be a whole lot easier. Atter the maiden win, she had five days off in the paddock just rolling around. We didn't work her during the time between races, just galloped her lightly."

Bird Mobberley's Local Motive broke his maiden July 24 on the dirt at Pimlico, switched surfaces in the Hickory Tree Stakes August 2 at Colonial and beat Ray M. Pennington III's Roll Dem Bones by one-half length at 5 1/2-furlongs.

The Divining Rod colt raced two-wide in the turn in a field of nine, came on strong and took the lead in the final furlong, then crossed one-half length the best in :57.52. J.D. Acosta was up in both starts.

"I'm not so sure he took to the turf as well as it looked," said trainer John Salzman Jr.. "It was a little bit of an easier race today. I hate having to change courses. I don't think it's fair to the horses but we had to try. I almost didn't run this horse back because it was a quick eight-day turnaround. It's not my style. But If you skip it, what are you going to do. It worked out for us."

The winner, now 2-for-2, pushed his bankroll to $86,920.

Dewberry Thoroughbred, LLC's Princess Theorem came from sixth at the half in the 1 1/16th miles Van Clief Stakes August 9, met No Mo Lady at the top of the stretch then pulled away in the final eighth of a mile to win by 1 3/4 lengths.

In two prior turf starts, the 3-year-old Nyquist filly took respective third and fifth-place finishes at Churchill and Fair Grounds but in the Van Clief, the Brendan Walsh trainee completed her comeback on grass quite nicely by 1 1/4 lengths. Leading jockey Joe Rocco Jr. led the effort.

1

2

Virginia Breeders Fund Yearling Futurity Set For September 8

The 20th annual Virginia Breeders Fund Yearling Futurity will be held Wednesday September 8 at 9 AM at the Warrenton Horse Grounds, and $30,000 in prize money will be on the line between four classes. An additional $5,000 in bonus monies will bring the entire pool up to $35,000. The event is open to Virginia-bred, Virginia-sired and Virginia-certified horses.

Anne and Sean Clancy of Riverdee Stable in Middleburg will be the Futurity judges. Details and registration information is at vabred.org.

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

Caption 1 - Virginia-bred Tasting the Stars wins for the fifth time in seven starts July 19 at Colonial. (Coady Photography)

Caption 2 - Cavalier Cupid's win in the Keswick Stakes was her second of the meet. (Coady Photography)

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Visit www.vabred.org—the best source for Virginia breeding and racing news

For more information on the Virginia Breeders Fund or Virginia Stakes Program, please contact the VTA.

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Virginia Breeders Fund

West Virginia
THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Newsletter September 2021

Jonesing for Success

Michael Jones Jr. has battled for everything he has attained in life, even though the community of Charles Town acknowledges his family heritage as racing royalty. His is a personal plight of youthful circumstances, repercussions and the inheritance of recovery versus all odds. Fortified by the positive affirmations of his upbringing, Mike believes no social constructs will deter goals his heart is set on.

Any given day, pass by Barn 21 and you'll find the man everyone simply refers to as "Big Mike". At 6 feet 6 inches tall, fitness unquestioned, the 43-year-old horseman casts an imposing shadow, as he effortlessly relocates from the faint luminescence of a stall into the radiant morning light.

Laden with tattoos that tell a subjective tale, Mike's voice is tranquil, his shoulders broad, as if fittingly placed there to carry a burden beyond our comprehension. If one begins to peel back the substantial layers of his family lineage, a good starting point is his grandmother, Sylvia Rideoutt Bishop.

In 1954, a time of fierce sexism and discrimination, she became the first licensed female African-American Thoroughbred horse trainer in America. A pioneer in her trade, like most individuals her fame didn't come until well after her death in 2005.

In 2008, she was inducted into the Charles Town Races Hall of Fame and, a few years later at the advocacy of her daughter Laverne, a stakes race was named in her honor.

This is the kind of blood Mike Jones has coursing through his veins. Opportunities remain moderate, but for Mike defeat is not an option. In 2021, he is on track to having a career best year. The numbers may not jump off the charts, but make no mistake, if given the proper tools he gets the job done.

For the present, claiming horses command the majority of Mike's stable, with his prize possession being Sherwood Lady, a West Virginia-bred filly by Fiber Sonde he haltered for $12,500 in March 2019 who went on to win the 2020 White Alley Overnight Stakes.

A 12-time winner with earnings over $230,000, the consistent mare also sports a third-place finish in the celebrated Cavada Stakes on last year's Breeders Classics card.

Mike recalls when he was just 6 or 7 years old spending hours around the barn area.

"Miss Sylvia, William Berry, Millard Dotson, countless other family members and close acquaintances watched over me as I was constantly underfoot. My mother always tells the story when my first grade teacher sent a note home about my poor performance in math class. Apparently, I was having trouble with my numbers. Mom told the teacher, that's funny because he can correctly read every single saddle towel in the post parade of a 10-horse field," chuckled Mike.

Mike bears the same name as his father, but gives all the credit for life's formative lessons to his mother and present resistance to failure, wife Brandy.

"I knew from the age of 12 that horses would be more than just a phase," he said. "Though my mom had no interest in the business, she knew I had been bit by the racing bug and there was no cure."

Stepfather Millard Dotson was prominent in Mike's early racetrack instruction. According to Mike, he was an exceptional horseman who worked under the shedrows of Maryland legends Bernie Bond and John Tammaro and was a decisive factor when Mike relocated there in the late 90s.

The next several years found Mike gainful employment in the dominant barns of Dale Capuano and A. Ferris Allen and, like a sponge, he absorbed all the knowledge he could before transitioning back to Charles Town. In 2012, Mike went to work for local conditioner Lewis Craig Jr. and two years later struck out on his own.

Recalls Mike, "I bought a horse from Michael Pino and we have been close friends ever since. He is more than just a friend, he is a mentor, benefactor and class act. Just last week I got two horses from him to train here."

Like the weather, the number of horses in Mike's care can fluctuate dramatically. He presently has 20 head peering contently out of their stalls and dreams to someday replace quantity with quality. His major component for success is consistency, which comes from aggressively placing horses.

"I treat every horse as an individual and just wait for improving opportunities," he says.

Every afternoon, following training hours, Mike is on the road to the farm (Wild Cherry Farm) Brandy and he rent to supervise their future – four West Virginia yearlings they bred and own. It seems suitable irony, after all the trendy tutors that have crossed Mike's path, that right in his rearview mirror was kinfolk surveilling him all along.

This time it would be legendary O'Sullivan Farms and the memory of their longtime trainer Gene Smith.

"Aunt Shirley (Sylvia's sister) was once married to Gene, who trained for the Funkhousers for decades. Maybe it's just a coincidence that I bred my mares to their stallions, but I'd like to think relatives are still looking down on me," whispered an emotional Jones.

Brandy and he are counting on Limehouse, Golden Years and Aldrin to enhance the chances for success and to ultimately diversify their top-heavy claiming barn. The couple are further excited by the recent workouts of Brandyurafinegirl, a 3-year-old daughter of Bandbox out of Delightful Erin owned by the twosome.

Mike Jones has discovered, through maturity, that you can't leisurely manufacture an enviable bloodline like his or selectively reproduce the intensity to succeed. Whether the past is an encumbrance or encouragement, this is Mike Jones' time to write his own legacy.

Closing, he humbly stated: "Life has been good, but certainly not easy. I am truly blessed to have the support of so many people."

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- The West Virginia Breeders Classics pays out almost $1 million in purses for WV-bred and/or -sired horses. It is held annually on the second Saturday in October.
- $800,000 in purses are allocated for up to 16 WV accredited stakes races during the year.
- Supplemental Purse Awards of up to 10% of the winner's share of the purse to the owner, breeder, and/or sire owner of the accredited WV-bred and/or -sired winner.
- West Virginia offers year-round racing with approximately 300 race days per year.

West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association

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Chasing
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Small, but mighty

U.S.-bred pony and junior riders are jump racing's best bet for the future, experts say

By Betsy Burke Parker

There's no way to get race riding experience without actually doing it.

And there's no way to get a race ride without actual experience.

The dichotomy isn't lost on steeplechasing's collective consciousness, how to practice for something that requires lots of practice, when practicing isn't safe without practice.

Enter the multi-faceted menu of pony racing, junior horse racing and developing rider racing circuits of 21st century American jump racing.

Thirty years ago on back in the history of the sport, most riders on the National Steeplechase Association circuit were U.S. born, many of them coming from families already involved in steeplechasing, or flat racing, some directly out of the hunt field. They did the only kind of pony racing that was available back then – very short, very fast dashes on ponies that were – usually – very hyped up. Safety protocol was less regimented, a bit like the old days when seatbelts weren't standard equipment in a vehicle, or like farm kids riding around in the back of a pickup truck.

Then it started changing.

The slow grind of suburbanization of much of the mid-Atlantic's formerly rural land began to nibble away the number of kids that grew up on a farm, that grew up bombing around on horses and ponies across the open countryside. Betty Hughes McCue remembers galloping her ponies on her family's 500-acre farm near Warrenton, Virginia, expanding the circle with speed and stamina as her parents just implored her to be home in time for dinner.

The leadline trot race at the inaugural Land Preservation Trust Junior Champions Day in May *©Carol Fenwick*

"It's not like that today," says McCue, one of a growing number of adults supporting a renaissance of sorts to bolster the rolls of kids involved in horse racing. "They learn to ride in a ring. Four walls and flat, level ground." No surprise, McCue says, that the American jump race roster was becoming more and more made up of Irish and English riders who still, today, learn to ride in the hunt field or on the cross-country course.

The enigma didn't go unnoticed by other concerned steeplechase horsemen, including former amateur riders Mason Lampton and the late George Sloan of the International Steeplechase Group, licensed trainer Regina Welsh, steeplechase insider Sam Slater and more, who began to conceive ways to draw more kids from outside racing in.

The first thing they did was introduce the field masters 'chase concept. Instead of sending kids and ponies out to race flat-out from start to finish, instead, young riders had to keep their mounts under control and behind an experienced adult leader until a few hundred yards before the finish line when they were released for a short dash to the wire.

"It worked well," says Regina Welsh, who developed the U.S. Pony Racing circuit that took junior and developing rider racing to a whole new level. "It gave young riders another way to learn."

Today, kids and parents can select from a wide range of racing experiences, from the controlled jump racing experience of a field masters 'chase to leadline trot racing for the youngest set. Pony races are still carded for small, medium and large ponies, at the point-to-points, hunt meets and, through USPR, at some major tracks. Some meets offer junior horse races, and a restricted young rider division was created for riders 14-18. Longtime Maryland Steeplechase Association board member Crystal Pickett

helped develop a junior rider scholarship.

More apprentice races have been added at the point-to-point level and under rules so more trainers had more choices of where to place horses as long as they used bug riders, and the jump rider roster has slowly begun to change. Amateur racing has long had an avenue for expansion through the Amateur Riders Club of America and its association with the international Fegentri series, but young riders are now getting increased exposure.

Hear from one of the biggest supporters of young rider development to find out how she's nurturing the desire to race for a whole new crop of American-bred jockeys.

It takes a village

Betty McCue, born Betty Hughes, was one of five kids born into a Warrenton, Virginia sporting family. Her father, Puller, encouraged his kids to ride, hunt, show, point-to-point – he considered all of it critical to the skill set of a well-rounded rider.

McCue, now 66, followed his lead; she rode point-to-points and hunted with Warrenton, Casanova and Old Dominion Hounds.

She took a little time off horses when getting her degree in education from Virginia Tech, but McCue became more deeply involved in racing when her first husband moved the family to Maryland for a job with Frank Bonsal. Her second husband, Jim McCue, drew her in deeper – he's track photographer for Maryland racing.

As she settled into a lengthy career as a second grade teacher – she retired last year after 42 years, McCue naturally wanted to combine horses and teaching. She opened a riding school, today teaching out of a farm in White Hall.

Almost 10 years ago, McCue hit on a unique business model for her lesson barn almost by accident.

"Some kids that were showing ponies with me years ago wanted to go watch one of their little friends race in a pony race at Timonium," McCue recalls the very moment she switched gears. "I piled them all in the back of my car and we went and had so much fun.

"So of course they say to me on the way home, 'Oh my gosh! We want to do that.'

"I knew what was likely to happen to

McCue congratulates jockey Levi Read on Bailey. *Photo courtesy of Betty McCue*

their quiet school ponies and show ponies if we started racing them. But I agreed because I knew from experience that, yes, racing is fun, and good for your horsemanship."

McCue began collecting appropriate ponies, and she found that some ponies were capable of "staying sane" even when they started racing. Count Chocula, one of her all-time favorites, for instance, "can show on a Saturday and win a race on a Sunday. Some of the ponies we've gotten are just jewels.

"Definitely not all of them are like that, of course."

One key, she says, is to not get the race ponies too fit. Pony races tend to be quite short – just a couple hundred yards for the smalls, and the field masters 'chases, by definition, are run mostly at a controlled pace, so fitness isn't much of an issue for a hunt or show pony. "It just works."

One of McCue's proteges, Charlie Marquez started his riding and racing careers at McCue's barn, moving from ponies to horses on the point-to-point circuit. Marquez earned top apprentice honors in Maryland racing last year.

Charlie Marquez got his start in pony racing with Maryland's Betty McCue, taking it the next step to horse racing for jump trainer Don Yovanvich (here, racing at Glenwood Park) before embarking in his flat racing career on the Maryland circuit. Marquez was Maryland's leading apprentice jockey in 2020. *©Betsy Burke Parker*

Fall Pony Racing Opportunities

Saturday, Oct. 23 - Maryland Million Pony Races
Friday and Saturday, Oct. 29 and 30- Washington International Horse Show
Saturday, Nov. 6 - Steeplechase at Callaway Gardens
Sunday, Nov. 7 - Pennsylvania Junior Hunt Cup
See TGSteeplechaseFoundation.org for updates

"The missing link from lessons and showing to racing?" McCue considers the vast differences most kids grow up with in regular riding schools and what they find on the racecourse. "For me, it's putting them on safe ponies that can help them work their way up.

"Most kids – most people, love the feeling of going fast, but they also love the feeling of feeling safe. So the trick is to get sweet, safe ponies for them to do their first races on. Maybe these ponies are more than happy to follow the field around a pony race, taking their time, doing this little canter in behind the other ones.

"You know what the kids say when I'm making entries for their next race? They'll say, 'Put me on something that can win.' Every time."

The best part about pursuing pony racing, McCue adds, is that "the instructor's not in the middle of the fenced arena telling you you're on the wrong diagonal or change your lead. Yes of course I teach them how to ride properly, but there's not a lot of correction that they don't figure out on their own.

"You learn by doing.

"I love being a mentor. Nothing makes me happier than seeing these kids move on" in racing.

McCue makes sure to outfit her jockey kids exactly right. From multiple tiny sets of her own red, white and blue silks to the thick wrist rubber bands she tugs onto each little arm to keep the silks from billowing in the wind, she wants it as close to "the real thing" as possible. "I want them to look, and feel, like little professionals."

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Looking Back

10 years ago

■ "Evans dispersal marks an epic chance to bid, and to bid farewell" was the headline as more than 200 horses from one of the nation's most iconic farms prepared to go through the Keeneland September and November sales. The Edward P. Evans dispersal was one of the largest for a major breeder in history, and a rare opportunity to acquire members of numerous prominent families–descendants of generations of Evans' selective practices.

Chris Baker, farm manager of Evans' Spring Hill Farm in Casanova, Va., for more than a decade, spent an afternoon giving a tour of the farm and pointing out the blue-bloods in residence to writer Cindy Deubler and photographer Lydia Williams. All would be sold, with no reserves, as part of the Lane's End consignment. All proceeds would go to the Edward P. Evans Foundation, which provides grants for medical research, education and the arts.

The Evans dispersal brought more than $62 million.

■ "That was unbelievable!" said trainer Jerry Hollendorfer, racing's newest Hall of Fame member, after the stretch run by his champion filly Blind Luck, who held off Fox Hill Farm's Havre de Grace in the Delaware Handicap-G2 to win by a nose.

It was the sixth meeting between the fillies going back to the Delaware Oaks-G2 the year before, with Blind Luck outfinishing Havre de Grace four times. California-based Blind Luck, champion 3-year-old filly of 2010, criss-crossed the country on a regular basis and was never off the board in 21 starts, winning 12, and earning nearly $3.3 million.

In their six starts, the two were separated by a neck or less four times. Blind Luck outfinished Havre de Grace by a nose (Delaware Oaks-G2), neck (Alabama-G1), 1 length (Breeders' Cup Ladies' Classic-G1 when the duo finished second and third) and a nose. Havre de Grace won the Fitz Dixon Cotillion Stakes-G2 by a neck; the largest winning margin was in Havre de Grace's first start that winter at Oaklawn Park in the Azeri Stakes, 3¼ lengths over Blind Luck.

■ Celebrity chef Bobby Flay got his first Grade 1 winner when the Virginia-bred filly Her Smile charged to victory in Belmont Park's Prioress Stakes. Flay had purchased the 3-year-old daughter of Include privately from breeder Bill Backer less than three months earlier.

That November, two days after finishing third in the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint-G1, Her Smile sold for $1 million as a racing or broodmare prospect at the Fasig-Tipton November sale. The next September at Keeneland, Flay purchased a Pennsylvania-bred yearling filly for $390,000. Dame Dorothy in 2015 would become his second Grade 1 winner. At this year's Saratoga sale, Flay sold her Uncle Mo yearling colt for $1.6 million.

50 years ago

■ The growth of Maryland's Thoroughbred breeding industry was on display at Saratoga, when 20 yearlings bred in the state sold for an average of $31,910; the sale's overall average was $30,541–a new Saratoga record.

A Dr. Fager colt out of Kelso's half-sister was purchased by Sidney Watters Jr. as agent for Mr. and Mrs. James P. Mills for $160,000, a record for a Maryland-bred sold at public auction. Bred by Allaire duPont, he was consigned to the sale by L. Clay Camp, who purchased him, along with nine other weanlings, from the breeder the previous fall.

■ Eugene Mori's Northern Dancer filly Alma North was proving to be one of the best 3-year-old fillies in training after capturing Atlantic City's Pageant Handicap, her fourth stakes win of the year. Earlier she won a division of Liberty Bell's Cotillion Handicap, as well as the Open Fire at Delaware Park and the Post-Deb at Monmouth. Out of the Swaps mare Spaws Arrow, she was bred by the Glade Valley partnership of Dr. Robert A. Leonard and Stanley Bender. Mori purchased her at Saratoga for $15,500.

JIM RAFTERY

Northern Dancer's daughter Alma North was racking up stakes victories her 3-year-old season.

■ Peter and Linda Green sold a yearling filly by Damascus out of Sunny Morn at the Keeneland Summer Sales for $56,000 to Live Oak Plantation of California. The filly had been foaled at the couple's Master's Cave Farm in Sparks, Md.

The filly named Sunny Dame became a foundation mare for Charlotte Weber's Live Oak Farm, primarily through her daughter, two-time Florida Broodmare of the Year Sultry Sun, dam of Sultry Song and Solar Splendor, who made headlines as Grade 1 winners on the same Belmont Park card in 1992.

■ A 2-year-old filly racing at Liberty Bell was winless in her first two starts and had quite the excuse when she foaled a colt at the track, to the surprise of her trainer and groom. "I went into her stall to put the feed in one morning and there was this foal. At first I thought it was a dog who had gotten in her stall," said trainer Kenny Heisey.

The filly, Jennifer Lynn, returned to race later in the year but never won. Her colt, named Mr. Liberty Bell, made it to the races, but also never won. It was determined the sire was a yearling at the time of conception, with both parents being by the stallion Bergeruk.

■ The 16-year-old broodmare Miss Jezebel took on the role of adoptive mother when in addition to her own colt, she accepted an orphaned filly. The stakes-producing mare was owned by Mrs. Fred Comyn. Both foals were by Rock Talk.

Miss Jezebell's flesh-and-blood Night Talk was a modest winner racing in England. The orphan, out of the Alsab mare Moya, was graded stakes winner and Grade 1-placed Kudara, who had 19 stakes wins or placings and earned $205,421.

25 years ago

■ Cigar's win streak came to a halt at 16 in the $1 million Pacific Classic-G1, when longshot Dare and Go benefitted from a speed duel between his stablemate Siphon (Brz) and Cigar as they flew 6 furlongs in 1:09.29 and a mile in 1:33.66, which left little in the tank for the champion in the last quarter-mile. The final time for the 1¼ miles was 1:59.85. Cigar added to his North American earnings title, finishing second pushed him over $9 million.

■ Skip Away, the hometown hero trained by Sonny Hine for his wife Carolyn, delivered a command performance in the $750,000 Haskell Invitational-G1 in his first start at Monmouth since breaking his maiden the previous August. He carried top weight of 124 pounds in the handicap, giving up to 10 pounds to his rivals.

EQUI-PHOTO, INC.

Future Hall of Famer Skip Away takes the Haskell.

■ In the 15 years since Texas businessman Joe Allbritton purchased historic Brookmeade Farm in Upperville, Va., saving it from development, and renamed it Lazy Lane, he added more than 1,700 acres and created a broodmare band that included the likes of Grade 1 winner Life At the Top and fillies from famed Virginia female lines. Said the farm's vice-president and general manager Frank Shipp: "I'm a Kentuckian, and I always thought that the land there was the best for raising horses. But I was wrong. The land in this area, the vein around Upperville, is better. It puts better bone in them."

■ Dale Baird, the first trainer to saddle 6,000 winners, then the first to saddle 7,000, and the all-time winningest trainer in North America, was a busy man and a hard interview. "He doesn't like to blow his own horn," said his wife Diane. Winning about 250 races a year with a stable owned solely by himself and his wife, Baird was a big fish in a small pond at Mountaineer Park. The 61-year-old had no assistant trainers, did all the work himself and had a win ratio of nearly 16 percent. He did note that being leading trainer in the nation (he led by number of wins the previous five years) was nice. But when asked about passing Jack Van Berg for the winningest trainer title, he said, "Well, he's my friend, so, you know, it was OK, but he works, too."

In December 2007, at the age of 72, Baird died in a traffic accident on an icy highway when he lost control of his pickup truck while hauling an empty trailer. He had 9,445 wins. Steve Asmussen surpassed Baird's mark on Aug. 7 at Saratoga.

■ Oscar-winning songwriter Burt Bacharach saw his homebred Grade 1 winners Soul of the Matter and Afternoon Deelites retired to stud at Airdrie Stud in Kentucky after suffering training injuries during the summer.

SHERRY BEAGLE

Dale Baird was the all-time winningest trainer in 1996, and then added nearly 2,500 more wins.

The West Virginia-bred sons of former Maryland stallion Private Terms earned $3,364,011 combined.

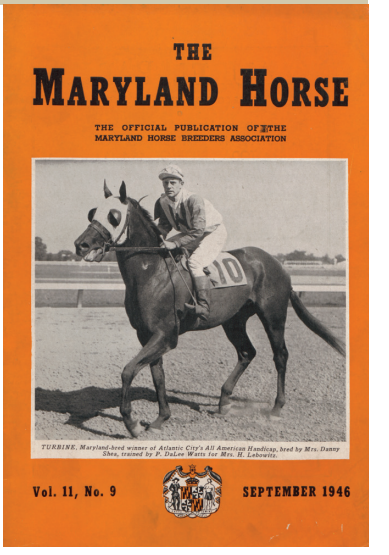
■ Award-winning *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* and *Maryland Horse* photographer Neena Ewing died unexpectedly at age 45. During her 25-year career as a photographer, she specialized in horses and children—"I'm like a junkie," she once said. "As long as I have a camera and film, kids and their ponies in front of me, I just can't stop until the film is gone."

■ Genuine Reward, the first foal for Kentucky Derby-G1 winner Genuine Risk, was retired to stud at Blue Ridge Farm in Upperville, Va. Bred and owned by Bert and Diana Firestone, the unraced son of Rahy made national headlines after his birth in 1993, with film of his first outdoor romps appearing on the networks' evening news.

75 years ago

■ Mrs. H. Lebowitz, of Newark, N.J., won Atlantic City's All American Handicap with the 4-year-old Maryland-bred colt Turbine, trained by P. DaLee Watts. Bred by Mrs. Danny Shea, Turbine completed the 1 3/16 miles in 1:57⅗.

■ Editor Humphrey Finney reported on tattoos for horse identification: "While at Saratoga we watched the process of tattooing young Thoroughbreds, and observed a number of horses that had been so marked for a number of years. After seeing some of the Remount's earlier experiments with the tattoo plan, and also observing the operations at the Pomona Remount Depot in California, the *Maryland Horse* takes the position that the tattooing of Thoroughbreds is feasible, practical and desirable. It will be necessary to work out plans for the marking of horses in a uniform manner and at the right stage of their development, as well as other details. It is up to the Jockey Club to state its position in the matter, for other racing authorities to follow. We think that all horses should be properly identified and tattooed before ever starting in a race."


THE
MARYLAND HORSE
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
MARYLAND HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
TURBINE, Maryland-bred winner of Atlantic City's All American Handicap, bred by Mrs. Danny Shea, trained by P. DaLee Watts for Mrs. H. Lebowitz.
Vol. 11, No. 9
SEPTEMBER 1946

See Horse: Using his horse for a better view, Major Johnson keeps an eye on the National Guard's Fifth Regiment at Maryland's Camp Albert C. Ritchie in 1930.

Photojournalist A. Aubrey Bodine, who worked at the Baltimore *Sun* for 50 years – from 1920 until his death in 1970 – captured many scenes of Maryland horses, farms and racing. He was regarded worldwide as one of the finest pictorialists of the 20th century. *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* features his work in Past Time.

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